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USSR Report

MILITARY AFFAIRS

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MILITARY-POLITICAL ISSUES

CHANGES IN PARTY DOCUMENTATION FOR ARMED FORCES

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 3, Feb 84 (signed to press 18 Jan 84) pp 50-55

[Article: "Work with Party Documents--At a Qualitatively New Level"]

[Text] The CPSU primary organizations are playing an ever increasing role in the implementation of party policy and in ideological-indoctrinational work, and they closely link the party with the masses. The CPSU Central Committee attaches important significance to raising their role as the leading force and political nucleus of the labor and military collectives and to the strengthening of the Leninist style of work in this element. The decisions of the 26th Party Congress and subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee are aimed at this.

The many-faceted activity of the primary party organizations also includes work with documents. The good organization of this matter furthers the more systematic conduct of organizational, ideological, and all intraparty work and permits setting up effective monitoring and checking of execution and clear information and accountability.

Until recently, the primary party organizations were guided by the Instruction on Work with Documents which was approved in 1974. However, exhaustive answers to new problems put forth by life cannot always be found in it. The necessity arose to introduce the appropriate corrections in the Instruction and to bring some of the provisions of work with documents in primary party organizations into conformance with party lines for strengthening discipline and raising organization and efficiency.

The decree of the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat of 16 August 1983 approved the new Instruction on Work with Documents in Primary Party Organizations. It went into effect beginning 1 January 1984.

In accordance with this Instruction and as applicable to the specific aspects of the life and activity of Armed Forces party organizations, a new instruction of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy on work with documents in the primary party organizations of the Armed Forces and which also went into effect this 1 January has been published.

With consideration of the Instruction's requirements, the necessary refinements and additions have been introduced into the new instruction of the Main Political Directorate. The corrections, changes and additions, the inclusion of new sections, and the clearer systematization of sections of this instruction which existed earlier are directed toward further improvement of work with documents, letters, and oral appeals of servicemen and of workers and employees of the Soviet Armed Forces. The instruction sets forth the basic rules for working with documents not only in the primary party organizations, but also in party organizations with the rights of primary, shop, and party groups. The observance of these rules in party organizations will further the better quality level in the conduct of party administration, the intensification of monitoring and checking execution, and raising responsibility for the safekeeping of documents.

Responsibility for work with documents and for their safekeeping is assigned to the secretary of the primary party (with rights of a primary) organization (party committee, party buro). The duties of accounting for, drawing up, and dispatching documents may be assigned to the deputy secretary of the primary party (with rights of a primary) organization (party committee, party buro) or to one of the members of the party committee (party buro).

With a change of secretary of the primary party organization (party committee, party bureau), the documents are turned over to the newly elected secretary as a matter of record. One copy of the statement is sent to the political department in no more than seven days, and with a change in secretary of the party organization with the rights of a primary organization--to the party committee (party buro) of the primary party organization. Another copy of the statement is stored in the files of the party organization. A stamp indicating payment of party dues is transmitted together with the documents on the statement.

Documents of the primary party (with rights of a primary) organization are stored separately from the official documents of the military unit (institution) and are kept under conditions which ensure their safekeeping: in offices, safes, or iron boxes which are sealed with the secretary's metal numbered seal.

The instruction presents the names of files with documents which should be maintained in the primary party (with rights of primary) organizations. In this regard, depending on the composition and number of documents their number may be decreased or increased at the discretion of the secretary of the party organization (party committee, party buro). As a rule, each file (except for the file with documents of higher party organs, the list or cards with the personal records of CPSU members and candidate members of the primary party organization (forms No 11, 12, and 12a) and notices of changes in the record data of communists (form No 4), and files with lists and statements on the transfer and destruction of documents should contain documents for one calendar year. With permission of the political department, files (books) may contain documents for the entire period of instruction rather than for one calendar year in party organizations of students of higher military educational institutions with a training period of no more than two years. With permission of the political department, in party organizations whose documents are not turned over to the party archive minutes of party meetings, sessions of the party buro, and work plans can be kept in one book if they are drawn up in books.

Great significance is attached to drawing up documents in party organizations and, first of all, of the minutes of meetings and sessions of party committees (party buros), in which, as is known, the creative thought of the collective is recorded in documentary form. The more complete reflection of necessary information is envisaged in the minutes of party meetings. Thus, the following are indicated in them: the number of the minutes, designation of the party organization, and the date of the meeting; the number of CPSU members and candidate members on the register who attended or were absent from the meeting; the last names, initials, and posts of representatives of higher party organs and speakers; the last names and initials of persons elected as members of the presidium or of the chairman and secretary of the meeting (if a presidium was not elected); and the agenda. The following are included in the minutes in chronological order for each question on the agenda: a brief record of the main provisions of the report (if its text is not appended to the minutes) and the statements in the debates with the indication of the last names, initials, and posts occupied by those who spoke; resolutions adopted and the results of the voting. The minutes of an open party meeting also indicate the number of non-party personnel who attended; it is noted whether those who spoke in the debates are CPSU members or candidate members.

Special features in drawing up the minutes of meetings by shifts and joint meetings of communists of several party organizations are considered.

When conducting a party meeting by shifts, common minutes are drawn up; they consist of a title sheet, minutes of the meetings in the shifts, and text of the report and of the resolution which has been adopted. The following are indicated on the title sheet: the number of the minutes and date of the meeting; the number of CPSU members and candidate members on the register who attended the meetings in all shifts; the agenda and total result of the voting. The title sheet and the resolution of the meeting which was conducted in shifts are certified by the signature of the secretary of the party committee (party buro).

The number of communists attending from each party organization is indicated in the minutes of a joint meeting of communists from several party organizations (the necessity for such meetings arises at times). The number of copies of the minutes is determined in accordance with the number of party organizations whose communists participated in the meeting. The next ordinal number is assigned to the minutes of a joint meeting in each party organization.

As the tasks in the activity of the primary party organizations become more difficult, special urgency is acquired by the question of the authority of party decisions. Instances are still encountered where the resolutions of party organizations are prepared in haste and frequently wording is recopied mechanically from the documents of higher party organs. At times, decisions are poorly reasoned and do not contain businesslike recommendations. Requirements relative to improving the quality of resolution preparation are formulated in the Instruction and in the instruction of the Political Directorate in accordance with it. The resolutions of party meetings and of party committees (party buros) should be well grounded and specific, should clearly determine measures for realization of the assigned tasks, and should designate those responsible for their implementation and the times for execution. In necessary cases, persons who are charged with monitoring the implementation of the resolution are also indicated.

A necessary organizational function of primary organizations is the monitoring and checking of execution. The instruction of the Political Directorate includes a new section in which requirements for the organization of monitoring of implementation of resolutions, directives and instructions of higher party organs, and resolutions of party meetings and party committees (party buros) are formulated.

The provision in the instruction which is connected with the realization of the suggestions and critical remarks of communists is basically important. The party committee (party buro) and secretary of the party organization should consider and generalize the suggestions and critical remarks expressed at party meetings, organize the monitoring of their realization, and inform the communists systematically about measures which have been adopted.

Information on work in accomplishing the resolutions, directives, and instructions of higher party organs and realization of the suggestions and critical remarks of communists which was examined at a party meeting or session of a party committee (party buro) is included in the minutes. The basic propositions of the information is recorded in the minutes. The text of the information may be appended to the minutes. The secretary of the party organization (party committee, party buro) informs the political department of suggestions and critical remarks of communists on questions which require consideration in higher party organs no later than within a seven-day period.

The rules for drawing up documents concerning acceptance in the party have been separated as an independent section. The following are presented for examination of the question of acceptance as a CPSU member or candidate member: the application, questionnaire, and autobiography of the one joining the party and three recommendations. The signatures of the recommending communists should be certified by the secretary of the primary party (with rights of a primary) organization (party committee, party buro) and sealed with the unit seal with a code name.

The requirements for drawing up the minutes of a party meeting or session of the party committee concerning acceptance in the party have been refined. Thus, the following are indicated in the minutes: last name, first name, patronymic, year of birth, nationality, social status, education, membership in the Komsomol (month and year of joining the Komsomol, number of Komsomol card), place of service (work), duty and military rank of the one entering the party; the last names, initials, place of service (work), duty and military rank, and length of party membership of those recommending and how long each of them knows the recommendee from joint production and social work. Also indicated when examining the question of the entrant's acceptance as a CPSU member are the year and month of his becoming a candidate CPSU member and the number of his candidate card. A brief content of the statements in the debates, the resolution adopted, and the results of the voting are recorded in the minutes. The minutes of the party session also indicate the date of arrival of the file concerning acceptance in the party from the party organization.

The application, questionnaire, autobiography, and recommendations together with an extract from the minutes of the party meeting which have been drawn up in a file are presented to the party commission with the political department no later than seven days after the adoption of the resolution concerning acceptance

as a CPSU member or candidate member. The primary party organizations which include organizations with the rights of primary organizations submit two extracts: one from the minutes of the meeting of the party organization with the rights of a primary organization, and the other-- from the minutes of the party committee session.

The procedure for drawing up extracts from the minutes of a party meeting (session of the party committee) is established. The following are indicated in it: the number of the minutes and the date of the meeting (session of the party committee); the number of communists on the register and attending the meeting (of party committee members--at the session of the party committee); the designation of the question. The extract presents a brief record of the statements in the debates, the resolution adopted, and the results of the voting. In addition, the extract from the minutes of a session of the party committee indicates the date of arrival of the file on acceptance in the party from the party organization.

The appropriate additions to the records of the minutes of party meetings and sessions of the party committee are entered when examining the personal files of communists. For example, the following are indicated in the minutes of a meeting or session of the party committee on a personal file after the designation of the question under the heading "They Heard": last name, first name, and patronymic, year of birth, nationality, social status, education, number of party card, place of service (work), duty and military rank, and length of party membership of the communist whose personal file was examined. The minutes also indicate data on the presence party punishments which have not been lifted from him and by whom, when, and for what they were declared. They also indicate whether the communist was present during the examination of his personal file. The text of the minutes contains a brief presentation of the essence of the personal file, statements in the debates, the resolution adopted by the meeting or party committee, and the results of the voting.

The procedure for the reception, recording, and examination of correspondence, letters, and oral appeals of servicemen, workers and employees of the Soviet Armed Forces, and other citizens and for the dispatch of documents has been defined. Thus, all documents which arrived in the primary party organization through the headquarters (office) of the unit (institution) are considered in the established procedure with observance of the requirements of orders of the Soviet Minister of Defense for the conduct of business correspondence and archive work in the Soviet Armed Forces and are turned over to the secretary of the primary party organization (party committee, party buro) for consideration, after which they are filed in a separate correspondence file of the party organization and stored in the correspondence of the unit (institution).

Responsibility for work with letters and oral appeals addressed to the party organization is assigned to the secretary of the party organization (party committee, party buro). Letters as well as oral appeals of servicemen, workers and employees of the Soviet Armed Forces, and other citizens are examined, as a rule within a month. This period is calculated from the moment of the letter's arrival in the party organization (date of registration). In the case where the conduct of additional study is required, the period of consideration may be extended by the secretary of the party organization (party committee, party buro),

which is reported to the author. If the letter arrived from a higher party organ, the period for its consideration can be extended only with the permission of this organ.

The sending of letters for consideration to those persons against whose actions complaints are being made is not permitted. For each written or oral appeal, the author is given an exhaustive written or oral reply to all the questions which he has posed within the established time.

Special attention is paid to the correct and quality processing and content of party administration documents. This pertains equally to documents subject to being turned over to the party archive as well as to documents for temporary storage. Primary party organizations whose documents are subject to being turned over to the party archive are determined by the corresponding instruction of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

The procedure for systematizing documents of the primary party organization and the rules for preparing files in accordance with their list and preparing materials for turning over to the archive has been refined. The composition of documents subject to being turned over for permanent storage from primary party organizations has been determined. They include: minutes of party meetings and sessions of the party committee (party buro) together with materials which have a direct relation to questions which have been discussed and documents on the implementation of resolutions of party meetings and the party committee (party buro).

The periods for the storage of documents have been defined. Documents subject to being turned over to the party archive are stored in the primary party organizations for two to three years, after which they are turned over to the headquarters of the troop unit (institution) as a matter of record. In the party organizations of groups of forces, documents which have been compiled with are stored for no more than one year, after which they are also turned over to the headquarters of the unit (institution), and those which are not subject to being turned over to the archive are destroyed as a matter of record. The period for the storage of documents in primary party (with the rights of primary) organizations which do not turn over minutes and other materials to the archive is at least three years.

Documents of the party group are segregated as a special section. As a rule, a diary of the party group organizer is maintained in the party group. It includes a list of CPSU members and candidate members, information on party meetings, the distribution and accomplishment of social assignments, suggestions, and critical remarks of communists, and other data necessary for the work of the party group. During the conduct of the party group's election meeting, minutes are prepared which are drawn up with consideration of the rules established by this instruction. If the elections of the party group organizer and his deputy were conducted by open voting, the results of the voting are indicated in the minutes. When necessary the minutes of other meetings can also be prepared in the party group. The party group organizer ensures the safekeeping of the party group's documents which, with the passage of necessity, are subject to destruction by agreement with the secretary of the party organization (party committee, party buro).

The putting of the new Instruction and the new instruction of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy on work with documents in the primary party organizations of the Armed Forces into effect requires the political organs to organize their detailed study with all political officers and secretaries of party organizations of units, institutions, and subunits. Their duty is also to analyze the existing practice for work with documents in primary (with rights of primary) and shop party organizations and party groups and to adopt measures to bring it into conformance with the new requirements. For this, there should be more complete use of seminars, instructional lessons, and conferences, the preparation of methodological materials and aids, and the preparation of record and monitoring documentation envisaged by the instruction of the Main Political Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy.

There are no trivia in work with party documentation; everything is important here. Strict observance of the new instruction and the new instruction of the Main Political Directorate will further the improvement in the conduct of party correspondence, the perfection of the style of activity of primary party organizations as the basic element of the party, and the raising of their organization, activity, and efficiency in light of the requirements of the 26th Party Congress and the lines of the November (1982) and June and December (1983) plenums of the CPSU Central Committee.

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WARSAW PACT

REPORT ON COMBINED USSR, CZECH, HUNGARIAN TRAINING EXERCISE

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Feb 84 p 4

[Article by Col G. Okulov and Lt Col A. Polyakov, KRSNAYA ZVEZDA correspondents: "Military Brotherhood"]

[Text] An exercise of Czech Peoples Army, Soviet Army and Hungarian Peoples Army ground and air forces has been conducted on Czechoslovak territory. The exercise worked out questions of coordination of the allied armies under conditions of modern combat. It facilitated further extension of mutual cooperation, sharing experiences in party and political work, and strengthening the military brotherhood of the fraternal armies. We are publishing reports from the exercise area.

Efficiency and concentration characterize the post controlling the combined tactical exercise. Officers are receiving information from the subunits and are issuing commands.

"We understand each other very readily," says Lt Col V. Sitnikov, smiling warmly at a Czech officer. The latter nods his head in agreement and again they bend over the map.

A bitter, gusty wind complicated the fulfillment of what was already a difficult mission. According to the exercise concept an air assault was to have been conducted in order to seize an important communications center and delay the forward progress of the attacking forces. Now everyone at the control post is concerned about whether the assault will succeed in such weather.

A growing rumble can be heard through the whistle of the wind. Fire support helicopters glide above the ground. Explosions plow the ground with snow. And now the assault helicopters can be seen flying low above the forest. Major A. Stakhovich, a military pilot first class, is leading them. Captain V. Kuzin and the other helicopter pilots guide on him.

The rotary winged vehicles hover just above the ground, raising snowy whirlwinds. The motorized riflemen jump swiftly to the ground. In a few minutes the motorized rifle company commanded by Guards Captain S. Solov'yev, which was conducting the assault, began to prepare the positions for defense. The company had concluded the past training year with excellent ratings, had enhanced its combat training during the course of the winter training, and operated ably and decisively in the exercise.

At this time Guards Major V. Kustov, the tank battalion commander, and Captain Arpad Shpultetti, commander of the motorized rifle battalion, received the order to drive the assault forces from the positions seized by conducting a simultaneous attack.

It is difficult to drive vehicles on icy inclines, but the Soviet tankers and Czech motorized riflemen operated capably. The "N" tank regiment, of which Major Kustov's battalion is a part, has glorious combat traditions. The present generation of soldiers is worthily continuing the traditions of the war veterans. The unit has several excellent subunits. The tankers earned the annual prize of the Central Group of Forces Military Council for their results in the past year.

The motorized rifle battalion of the Czech Peoples Army commanded by Captain Shpultetti is also well known for numerous fine deeds.

The intensity of the battle increases. It seems that the offensive has slowed, its tempo declined, but this was tactical cunning.

The tank company commanded by Guards Captain V. Batalov has contained the actions of the assault operation with its accurate firing. The tankers of this excellent company destroy the targets skillfully. In so doing they also display the effectiveness of competition under the slogan, "Be On the Alert, In Constant Readiness to Defend the Accomplishments of Socialism!" in which all personnel are actively participating.

While the battle with the tanks was in progress the motorized infantry company commanded by Czech Army Sr Lt Irzhi Floder, using the limited visibility and broken terrain, moved to the flank of the assault forces along a shallow ravine and completed this fervent training battle with a coordinated attack.

Developing their success, the subunits of the fraternal armies approached the river. Here the ponton battalions commanded by Lt Col I. Kochnev and ChNA [Czech People's Army] Captain F. Shtevkov are operating in an excellent manner. The pontoneer soldiers know each other well and several times have laid "bridges of friendship." Lt Col Kochnev has been awarded the medal, "For Military Services," and his Czech colleague has numerous incentive awards from the command. Substantially outstripping the norms, the pontoneers ensured the rapid crossing of the tankers and motorized infantry.

Morning of the next day of the exercise began with a powerful artillery preparation. An air attack of the defenders' positions was conducted. Then the fire support helicopters appeared above the forward edge. The leader of one of the pairs of combat aircraft is Major E. Avramenko, a military pilot 1st class. Plumes from the explosions rise above the ground. The strike of the aerial warriors is accurate and mighty.

The tank company commanded by Guards Sr Lt V. Ashitok, the ChNA motorized rifle company commanded by Sr Lt Ya. Blazhko and the Hungarian Peoples Army tank company commanded by Sr Lt P. Kertis are at the point of attack.

On the eve of the decisive battle the Czech, Hungarian and Soviet soldiers met in a friendly atmosphere, shared military and party-political training experience, and exchanged souvenirs. Then they swiftly went on the attack in a single combat formation. Their onslaught was irresistible.

General of the Army M. Dzur, Czechoslovak SSR Minister of National Defense; Col Gen A. Brabets, chief of the ChNA Political Administration; Col Gen G. Borisov, commanding general Central Group of Forces; Lt Gen N. Kovalenko, member of the Military Council and chief of the Political Administration of the Group, and members of the command of the Warsaw Treaty Organization Combined Armed Forces observed the activities of the Czech, Hungarian and Soviet soldiers.

The exercise concluded with a review of the troops.

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ARMED FORCES

ARMY GEN BELOBORODOV COMMENTS ON MILITARY COMRADERY

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Gen Beloborodov: "Our Military Comradery"]

[Text] Among the letters of war veterans in the editors daily mail, and among those which are preserved in our archives, are many which contain moving lines about military comradery and firm friendship among soldiers.

The editors asked Gen Army A. P. Beloborodov, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union, to comment on these letters.

I read with excitement these letters from various corners of our country. I read them and it was as if I were again on the fiery roads of war, again walking along the frontal dug-outs, trenches and foxholes of the forward edge, and had again in the short breaks between fierce battles become a witness to the soldiers' conversations, where I had heard the drawn-out speech of my fellow Siberians, the glib talk of the Caucasians and the soft murmuring of the Ukrainians.

I would like to begin the discussion with this letter from the capital of the Buryat ASSR, Ulan-Ude, from S. Khandazhapov, former political commissar of a machinegun battery of the 2d Guards Cavalry Corps: "All who took the war upon themselves know very well the invincible strength of military comradery, front-line friendship," writes the veteran. "The feat of a Russian soldier, a communications man named Tyutin, became in our corps a vivid example of the highest sort of front-line friendship. In hand-to-hand combat he shielded the regimental commissar, an Uzbek named Ismail Salimov, with his body. I also owe my life to my Russian brother, Sergeant Major Petr Ivanov. Under enemy fire he carried me, bleeding heavily, from the field of battle and took me to the medical battalion..."

Reading the letters of the front-line soldiers, which recounted examples of self-sacrifice by soldiers and officers for the sake of saving their military comrades, I thought most about the great spirit of our Soviet soldier, and about the nobility and loftiness of his feelings toward his comrades in arms.

As one who encountered the enemy face to face, as they say, many times, I know well that the readiness of each soldier to come to the assistance of his comrade, his readiness to act according to the principle, "die oneself, but rescue a comrade," was one of the elements of that staunchness, that cohesion of units and subunits, before which the enemy retreated.

I remember the battles at Kharkov. More than 100 enemy tanks are coming against the 22d Guards Rifle Regiment of our division. Heavy artillery rounds rain down upon the foxholes of the Guards soldiers. Half a hundred Junkers are diving and unceasingly dropping bombs on the infantrymen's positions. It seems already that the regiment will not hold out. But buried with earth, deafened and blinded by fire, the commanders, political officers and soldiers met the advancing tanks with aimed fire and grenades. And although the fascist tanks succeeded in dividing the regiment into separate groups, they did not break the guards soldiers, who continued to burn the tanks and did not allow the enemy infantry to their trenches. "The determination of the regiment was supported by the firm faith of all the soldiers in each other," stated then regimental commander Romanov. "Each knew that his comrade would stand with him to the death, and, therefore, that he also must so stand." This is what is meant by cohesion. This is what is meant by the firm confidence of each soldier in his comrade. This is a great force!

One sees this again and again in rereading the mail of the front line soldiers. "At the Sandomir Bridgehead, and during the liberation of Poland and the taking of Berlin, our firm friendship and cohesion helped us," states a letter from the Gomel Oblast, written by M. Lyakhovets, a veteran of the 37th Guards Rifle Regiment, 12th Guards Rifle Division. "Each of us, advancing to the enemy, knew firmly that next to him were military comrades who would always help and support him. This gave strength, courage and boldness."

Former machinegunner V. Mukhanov, former tankers V. Cherezov, I. Kubar' and A. Timofeyev, artillerymen M. Kurbatov and I. Vasil'yev and many other soldiers also remember their military friends with good words.

One cannot read without excitement the letters of those veterans who then, 40 years ago, joining their subunits as young, raw recruits, felt the brotherly concern of those soldiers who had combat experience. After many years V. Tupichenkov, N. Brytskov, F. Useynov, N. Ul'yanovskiy and many other front line soldiers had not forgotten the sensitivity and warmth of their seniors. "We had three young soldiers in our platoon: Misha Yeskin, Vanya Leonov and I," writes former combat engineer I. Chernobay. "And the veteran soldiers took care of us as though we were younger brothers, and tried to do everything to help us more quickly acquire experience. Once we crawled to the German forward edge to make passages in their mine fields for our subunits. We removed one mine, then another. I looked and the next had a "surprise." It was set to be non-extractable. While I was wondering what to do with it, one of the most experienced of our engineers, Mikhail Roganov from Voronezh Oblast, crawled up to me. He said to 'crawl back to the shell crater, I will work on it myself.' I crawled away and in literally a few seconds he took care of the mine. And when we had returned from the mine disarming he explained to me for an hour and a half how to work with such mines. I remember this science to this day. And to this day I thank my dear friend Misha Roganov, with whose help I never erred in my encounters with mines."

I read these letters with special excitement because I always devoted great attention to relations between the young and the more experienced soldiers, and to the quickest possible entry into military life of the younger generation.

In connection with this, I believe that letters of commanders and political officers which contain the experience of their work in building the cohesion of military collectives are of great interest. "I constantly endeavored to get commanders, political officers and party and komsomol activists to explain to soldiers of the younger generation in what a heroic unit they have come to serve," writes retired colonel L. Sirenko from Donetsk, who fought at Stalingrad on Lyuknikov Island. I tried to ensure that the young soldiers got to know each hero in the unit. And I am sure that this helped them greatly to fight the enemy with great selflessness in their first battles, and helped them more quickly to feel themselves a part of their home regiment."

"In sending my subordinates on a mission, I always reminded them of episodes of comradely mutual assistance which helped in fulfilling the mission precisely and avoid losses," writes retired Captain V. Shvedov, former commander of a reconnaissance company. "And, as a rule, the men returned from the reconnaissance mission and reported new examples of soldierly union and friendship, and mutual assistance."

These letters remind us front line commanders of many things. They also say a lot to today's commanders and political officers, especially that constant and purposeful work is needed to strengthen further military comradery.

Reading the letters of retired lieutenant colonels I. Chasnyk and N. Pavlenko, whose front line friendship becomes stronger with each passing year, and of former artilleryman V. Knyazev, who sought out more than 400 addresses of his regimental fellow-soldiers after the war, I recalled the old, old parable, which Uvarov, commander of our partisan detachment told me during the years of the civil war when I was but a 16 year old boy: "One ancient wise man was asked what, in his opinion, was more valuable than gold. He thought and answered briefly, 'Friendship!' 'And what is more lasting than iron?' the second question followed. 'Also friendship!' 'Well, and what is stronger than a storm?' they again inquired of the wise man. 'Friendship is stronger than a storm,' he answered."

And so it is for them -- retired lieutenant colonels N. Pavlenko and I. Chasnyk, retired Colonel I. Salimov and retired Captain S. Khandazhapov -- and for thousands of other front line soldiers whose selfless friendship and feeling of military comradery are more valuable than gold, more lasting than iron and stronger than a storm.

I read with great emotion the letters of V. Mokrousov from Tallin, A. Zelenin from Belgorod Oblast, D. Pogozhev from Chelyabinsk, A. Tarasenko from Ternopol, N. Tabidze from Batumi, V. Okunev from Vladivostok, N. Shamrin from Omsk and many others, which tell of how wartime friends even today help each other.

Suddenly among these letters is one about an entirely different kind of "friendly assistance." Retired Lt Gen Fedor Yakovlevich Lisitsyn discussed this. His letter concerns S. Kulikov, who convinced three of his fellow soldiers to confirm in writing that he, then a sergeant, in 1941 supposedly covered the firing port of an enemy bunker with his body. As a matter of fact, as it became clear later, Kulikov did not accomplish this feat. "We simply

wanted to help our comrade to receive an award. After all, he did fight just the same," L. Permyakov, one of Kulikov's fellow soldiers explained. Here, you see, one might carry away a false impression of comradeship. Now, of course, Permyakov is sorry about what happened and recognizes that such "help" is incompatible with the principles of our communist morality.

Among the general duties of servicemen written in the USSR Armed Forces Internal Service Regulations is the following: "...to value military comradeship, help one's comrades in word and deed, restrain them from unworthy deeds and, not sparing one's own life, rescue them from danger..." It is gratifying to read in letters of today's soldiers examples of friendship and mutual assistance. "Following the rules of military comradeship, Guards PFC V. Podolich saved Guards Private R. Khachatryan during a parachute jump, after Khachatryan's parachute canopy had collapsed due to an error by the young parachutist..." I read in a letter from a group of soldiers from the "N" parachute regiment. Pilots from the "N" unit write about the feat of their former regimental fellow soldier, Lt Col V. Shcherbakov, Hero of the Soviet Union, who saved his military comrade in a critical situation: "During our student years we were amazed by the feat of Pilot Gorovets, a Hero of the Soviet Union, who landed his plane on enemy territory and was able to take his comrade in his fighter and save him. And here our own contemporary comrade repeated this feat in a critical situation. We have no doubt that each of us would have so acted."

Friendship and comradeship, collectivism and mutual assistance -- these are traits inherent in our Soviet way of life. I again thought of this after reading the CPSU Central Committee Address to all voters and to the citizens of the USSR. In this document of tremendous political importance, the traits of collective spirit and comradely mutual assistance are named among the main features of the Soviet way of life. Military comradeship, based on a feeling of patriotism, on boundless love for the Homeland, and on ideological conviction, cements our ranks. It is a tested means of further increasing combat readiness and a guarantee of victory in battle. We will strengthen it tirelessly. This is especially important today, when the world is troubled and when military danger from American imperialism has increased. To strengthen friendship and comradeship means to strengthen the might of our Fatherland.

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CSO: 1801/229

ARMED FORCES

AWARDS TO BE GIVEN FOR IMPROVING SERVICEMEN'S LIVING CONDITIONS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 84 p 2

[Unsigned article: "For Improving Servicemen's Living Conditions"]

[Text] In order to improve further material, medical and amenities support and cultural service to Army and Navy personnel, an All-Army Conference on Improving Servicemen's Living Conditions will be held in December 1985. During preparation for the conference, an All-Army competitive inspection for the garrison with the best living conditions will take place.

A commission of the USSR Ministry of Defense is being created to prepare for the conference and control the competitive inspection. Compiling the results of the competitive inspection within the armed services, military districts, groups of forces and fleets is charged to commissions, which handle the conduct of annual inspections for the garrison with the best living conditions. The results of their work must be presented to the commission of the USSR Ministry of Defense prior to 1 October 1984. Five first-degree, 10 second-degree and 10 third-degree diplomas, and monetary prizes, have been established for awarding to the victors in the All-Army competitive inspection. The best military units, those which win prizes within their garrisons, are to be awarded certificates.

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ARMED FORCES

NEW REGULATIONS REGARDING DAMAGE TO STATE PROPERTY GIVEN

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Feb 84 p 2

[Unsigned article: "Servicemen's Material Responsibility"]

[Text] The Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet has approved a new Regulation on the Material Responsibility of Servicemen for Damage Caused to the State. Pursuant to it servicemen and military obligated persons called up for meetings who are guilty of causing damage to the state while fulfilling their duties are held accountable. Such persons are responsible in accordance with general civil procedures for damage caused outside of the fulfillment of their duties. Material responsibility does not ensue if the damage is caused as a result of conscientious execution of an order or a justified risk in carrying out one's duties, or is caused by lawful actions.

As a rule direct, actual damage is subject to compensation. Compensation is made without regard for whether the guilty party is subjected to disciplinary or criminal punishment, but may also be made voluntarily.

Unless the law provides for other limits of responsibility for damages caused by careless fulfillment of duties, guilty parties are materially liable in the amount of the damage, but not more than: for officers, warrant officers, extended term servicemen and servicewomen -- one month's pay; for first-term servicemen and students at military educational institutions -- 100 rubles; for military obligated persons called up for meetings -- 150 rubles. Full material liability ensues in the event of intentional destruction, damage, harm or misappropriation, unlawful expenditure of military property, credit claimed for work not actually accomplished, defects by persons under the influence of alcohol, and in certain other instances.

Procedures governing material responsibility are defined which apply to commanders and supervisors for damage caused by their subordinates; to responsible officials for railway car, ship and vehicle stoppages which are their fault; and also concerning damage in connection with unlawful dismissal or transfer to other work of workers and employees.

The regulation on material responsibility of servicemen is effective 1 Mar 84.

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ARMED FORCES

LETTERS TO KRASNAYA ZVEZDA EDITOR, RESPONSES

Repairs Not Made

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] The letter from Senior Lieutenant A. Groza, published under the headline "Roofers Against Their Will" on 6 October, stated that the roof of a building in the Transbaykal Military District had not been repaired for a long time.

The temporary chief of the district KEU [housing operations administration] Colonel of Engineers Yu. Semenov informed the editors that at the present time the roofs of all buildings in the garrison are repaired.

Skill Versus Ranks Questioned

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Dec 83 p 2

[Letter from Lieutenant Colonel M. Valyush, Red Banner Far East Military District]

[Text] The letter from Lieutenant Colonel V. Gurgenedze entitled "Rank Categories are High, But What About Skills" forced me to again critically analyze the skill level of my own subordinates and its correspondence to their rank categories.

The subordinates of Major V. Prisich took first place in the competition according to results of our last training year. Here more than 70 percent of the communicators are specialists 1st and 2nd class. And such first-class specialists as Warrant Officer V. Melnikov, Sergeant A. Beseda, Private V. Bogomolov, and others are rightly entitled to our pride. We entrust them to fulfill the most complex tasks.

Major Prisich is primarily responsible for the successes of his subordinates. He puts a lot of attention on skill development and knowledge expansion in his communicators. A system of individual tasks for specialists is widely used here. The rank category indicates skill. But so that the category always corresponds to skill, we commanders must increase our high demand in the area of professional training of subordinates. Indulgence, allowances, and dereliction portend great harm.

At one of the exercises (in the last training year) the subordinates of Lieutenant A. Golovin were unable to service the simplest defect introduced into the communications equipment by the umpire. We were surprised. Are all the soldiers in the subunit not rated specialists? And the explanation was quite simple. It turned out that Lieutenant Golovin seldom worked with his subordinates on theory and basically "stressed" the practical. The officer had to be corrected.

Using Experts Correctly

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Dec 83 p 2

[Letter from Captain P. Torchilkin]

[Text] When the results of the last training year were totaled, our unit held first place, but with a stipulation. The umpires noted that few of our crews were composed of experts, whereas our neighboring units had a substantially higher number of such crews.

We turned to the experiences of the neighbors which the umpires used as examples. And we learned some unexpected things. Yes, half of the crews there had only experts working in them and the results are high. And how do the other crews "feel" next to them? What kind of performance indicators do they have?

They are significantly lower than those of the leading units. And it is understandable. The 3rd and even 2nd class specialists could not work on the equipment as efficiently, confidently, and error-free as could an expert.

I do not think that our rivals in the competition because of the desire to be notable premeditatedly went out and created model crews. Apparently they thought thusly: the more crews of experts the better. According to this rule, the crew which has an expert in its midst and others close to his level of expertise, will strive to retain that level at any cost. The time will come when all the specialists in the crew will be experts and again none of the officers are transferred. And indeed those officers who have become experts and have completely learned their own and related specialties could lead crews of their own. It is too bad that there are no experts at all in the other crews where the experience of an expert could prove useful in training young specialists.

In our unit there are not many crews consisting of experts. But one third of the officers are experts. And they head approximately 90 percent of the crews. Their experience is actively used in developing young specialists. For example, Lieutenants A. Yaichkin, A. Mekhonoshin, and A. Dusenok came to our unit and the question naturally came up as to which crew they would be assigned to so that the young officers could become proficient as soon as possible. The unit commander in such situations considers it necessary to seek advice from members of the methodological council. We came to the conclusion that Lieutenant Yaichkin would benefit from serving under the

example of such an expert as Lieutenant A. Troynin, although this forced the "reformation" of a crew consisting of masters. The forerunner of Yaichkin is himself now the head of a crew and the young officer successfully entered the ranks and is preparing to pass tests to a higher category. By this method, working side by side with experts and adapting their methods, our young officers are professionally growing.

We are totally convinced that the struggle for high rank categories cannot become an end unto itself. It must serve to increase the professional skills of all personnel.

Drivers Train Poorly

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Dec 83 p 2

[Letter from Captain V. Semenenko, Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District]

[Text] In my opinion, Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers V. Gurgenzidze correctly stressed that the skill of a specialist must be forged continuously, day by day. But how is this often done in practice? I will use drivers as an example, since in my daily work I have frequent contact with them. Before the training period begins, soldiers as a rule take high socialist commitments.

The basic points are: increasing skills and providing safe movement and the ability to confidently act in mountainous and desert conditions.

These reference points are unarguably correct. But the whole problem is that after accepting the commitments, the work of increasing the specialist category of the drivers falls off. For example, we have good vehicle testing grounds in the military schools and units, but they are utilized under their maximum capacity. What does this lead to? Many drivers are not increasing their qualifications and are allowing errors on the road. As a result, the number of people violating rules is not lessening.

There is another thing that attracts one's attention. The training period is coming to a close and specialist training is beginning to speed up. Responsible people have increasing desires to have high marks. People are still reluctant to go to the vehicle testing grounds. Commanders and political workers are begging the members of the commission to make allowances for their subordinates as they have no place to train, they say, and to improve their practical skills. Then why did they not train from the very beginning of the training period? This kind of question unfortunately does not always come up with the examiners and they "take into account" the difficulties with the vehicle testing grounds that have developed and give out high marks in advance. In my opinion, to prevent similar occurrences, it is necessary to impose a stricter demand on those who pander to indulgence and give over-stated evaluations.

Misuse of Reservists

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Dec 83 p 2

[Letter from Major of Legal Services S. Peutin, deputy prosecutor, Samarkand Garrison]

[Text] A leading welder from the Samarkand Experimental-Mechanical Factory, Reservist Lieutenant N. Fazylov, received a summons from the Voenkomat [military registration and enlistment office] to come to a verification muster. Urgent and critical work was waiting in his shop and the completion of a special order depended on it. But discipline is paramount and the reserve officer went to the building of the Bagishamal Rayvoenkomat [rayon voenkomat] exactly at the designated time.

Fazylov was surprised when he found out that no muster was scheduled and that he, a highly qualified specialist, was expected to act as a messenger and guard. This continued for several days and finally the reserve officer complained to the factory director.

A "compromise" was worked out and Fazylov had to split himself into two parts, so to speak. During the day he worked at the factory and afterwards, at the Voenkomat "muster". But things went badly all the same. The special order looked like it might not be completed. Then the factory director, V. Furmanov, turned to us, the military prosecutor.

After receiving the complaint, a prosecutor's inspection was conducted into the affairs of the Bagishamal Rayvoenkomat. This uncovered a number of violations of the Law of Common Military Responsibility, by Lieutenant Colonel V. Ruziyev. Specifically, at his direction for a long time they had been calling in reservists, and as a rule highly qualified specialists, under the guise of a muster to work on repairing the Voenkomat building and other construction projects without proper authority. The rayvoenkomat alluded to written orders from the Ispolkom Chairman Kh. Umarchanovoy.

This illegal order (coordinated, strangely enough, with Attorney Sh. Khamrakylov) in no way lowers the responsibility of the rayon military commission with whose light hand the voenkomat turned to the bureau for distribution of labor resources for "urgent" city construction.

It would scarcely be useful to be reminded that each reservist called to a "muster" by the voenkomat retains 100 percent of his pay from his usual work location. But if the material losses from such voenkomat "initiatives" are easily counted, the moral costs are impossible to measure. The authority of voenkomat workers suffers. Such a practice cannot but impact adversely on the quality of additional training for reserve soldiers.

The military prosecutor of the Samarkand Garrison gave the district voenkomat as a general reprimand the order to adhere strictly to the Law of General Military Responsibility and not to allow reservists to be pulled away from work without reason. According to information we have, invariably similar

occurrences take place in other voenkomats as well. This must not be allowed, namely, using a reservist for other than his direct assignment and hide behind noble words using someone's work shortage and inability to organize.

Hopes For New Training Year

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 83 p 2

In the numerous responses received by the editor in the appeal to the readers (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, 18 October) our chief correspondent continues to conduct a dialogue with the newspaper on what he would like to see in it during the upcoming year, 1984.

[Letter from Major G. Pasyukov, Red Banner Black Sea Fleet]

[Text] Material on the specific experience and affairs of socialist competition initiators in the military is scarce on the pages of this newspaper. We are contacting them via the newspaper and are very interested in knowing what successes they are reaching in various areas and at what cost they are fully meeting their accepted obligations.

[Letter from Captain S. Nikitenko, Group of Soviet Forces Germany]

[Text] Imperialism, and most of all American imperialism, has caused the international situation today to be exceptionally aggravated. This makes it incumbent upon Soviet soldiers to be especially vigilant and constantly prepared to repulse possible aggression. Understanding the art of defeating the strong and well-equipped enemy, we are learning much from our fathers and uncles who triumphed in the Great Patriotic War. It is necessary to show more specific examples of how to organize military activities in the material about frontal life, which is published by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. Show more clearly how and at what cost front-line soldiers defeated the enemy.

[Letter from Reserve Lieutenant Colonel S. Bakhtinov, Novosibirsk]

[Text] 1984 is the threshold of the 40th anniversary of victory in the Great Patriotic War. Because of this, I propose an increase in the amount of material published under the rubric "Poisk". There is little material published here, but it is valuable because from this information one can form a majestic picture of national exploits.

[Letter from Captain 1st Rank V. Pechalin, Red Banner North Fleet]

[Text] The June (1983) CPSU Central Committee Plenum pointed out the necessity of radically improving planning and management. I think that the struggle for implementing this direction must be thoroughly illuminated also in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. The experiences of such work, amassed in units and on ships, is necessary for other military collectives.

[Letter from Major S. Senyakin, Order of Lenin Moscow Military District]

[Text] The editor must realize that almost all of the material in the "Dialogue: Readers -- Newspaper" pages is discussible. But I have the impression that some of the material on these pages is too smooth. Questions dealing with major issues impacting on life are rarely raised. Why not periodically go back to a theme raised at some time by a reader and publish reader responses to it.

[Letter from S. Matrosov, veteran of the Great Patriotic War, Dnepropetrovsk]

[Text] The newspaper publishes little material which exposes the propagandistic lies of our ideological enemy. I would like the newspaper to deal more often with the lies by bourgeois information media, showing the true face of imperialism and its fawners who are ready to plunge humanity into the abyss of a new world war for the sake of their own mercenary goals.

[Letter from I. Pinchuk, chairman, women's council unit, Red Banner Carpathian Military District]

[Text] In my opinion there is still little material in the newspaper about the work of the womens councils. They have a major role in uniting the soldiers' collective and creating the kind of atmosphere in the unit which helps people serve at full efficiency. I have a major request. Show military family life more diversely and faithfully, and at a higher level.

Service in Remote Posts

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Dec 83 p 2

[Text] On 26 October a letter from Lieutenant Colonel N. Shabalin and a commentary on it by Chief of Staff for the Order of Lenin Moscow Military District PVO Colonel General of Artillery Yu. Gor'kov were published in the "Dialogue: Reader -- Newspaper" page under the headline "Again To A Remote Area?" Comrade Shabalin's letter brought up the fact that Captain P. Kalmychkov, a long-term officer who knows his business well, was offered a promotion which presumed a transfer to a less homelike locale and he refused. Answering Captain P. Kalmychkov via the newspaper, Colonel General of Artillery Yu. Gor'kov, who himself had served much in remote garrisons, indicated that service in "remote posts" is an excellent school for officer maturity.

Today Major of Engineer Reserves V. Trifonov is sharing his opinion on this issue.

No, I do not understand Captain P. Kalmychkov. And I am sure that as time passes he will deeply regret that he made such a decision. Among my acquaintances who formerly served with me are those who, like Captain

Kalmychkov in their own time refused a promotion because of its location. When I see them now, they grieve, "Oh, if it were only possible to change everything!"

When an officer is faced with a service transfer, it has to affect his own life and those close to him.

I remember that the commander of our cadet company, Major Ye. Nalivayko, advised those of us contemplating marriage that we should without fail discuss with our prospective spouses the service, the unavoidable transfers, the difficulties and their readiness to follow their husbands to the ends of the earth. I followed this good advice and my wife and I have never had any problem in this regard.

After completing the officer training school I was offered a service promotion. I was then serving in the North Caucasus. We lived in separate, well-organized quarters that one can only dream about. My wife worked at the same school my daughter attended. And then there was no engineer vacancy in the unit. We were faced with going to the Far East Military District. I called my wife at school and said that I had been offered a promotion. She was happy and asked only when we would have to leave. But there were those who began to dissuade us. They said that we would be sorry and that we should think about what awaited us at the remote garrison.

Certainly we ran into problems at the new location. I did not get to meet my predecessor, an engineer-aviation officer, as the position had been vacant for some time. I was making the initial steps in the new job and Officers Yu. Yagunin, G. Merkulov, A. Lyzhin and B. Kosolapov helped me.

I have found satisfaction and happiness in the service. Good, considerate people, always ready to help, surrounded us. The small Tiaga garrison became our home. There on the edge of our native land we especially felt our participation in the defense of our Motherland and took pride in it.

Service at a "remote post" is well remembered throughout a man's life and is an important landmark in my officer biography.

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ARMED FORCES

TRIBUTE TO MSU BATITSKIY BY AIR MARSHAL RUDENKO

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Feb 84 p 3

[Article by Air Marshal Rudenko: "The Memory of a Military Comrade"]

[Text] The heart of Marshal of the Soviet Union Pavel Fedorovich Batitskiy has ceased beating. The Soviet people and their Armed Forces have suffered a serious loss. Death has torn from our ranks a remarkable son of the Communist Party and a prominent military leader, whose entire life was devoted to the selfless service of his socialist Homeland.

Pavel Fedorovich linked his fate with the Soviet Army in his early youth, and remained true to his military duty to his final breath. On leave of absence from the Serp i molot factory in Khar'kov, he studied in a military training school and later successfully completed cavalry school. He commanded a platoon and a squadron. Here he came to know the spirit and the difficult and varied life of a soldier, and acquired the knowledge and skills which in the future became a good foundation for his growth as a commander.

In 1935 a long-held dream of Pavel Fedorovich was fulfilled. Having passed the entrance exams he entered the Military Academy imeni M. V. Frunze. Three years later yet another wonderful event took place in his life. He was admitted into the ranks of the Communist Party.

The Great Patriotic War found P. F. Batitskiy in the position of chief of staff of a motorized division. Then he commanded a rifle division and a rifle corps. He fought at Zapadnaya Dvina, Shelona, Lovata and Staraya Russa in summer 1941. He participated in defeating a major enemy grouping in the area of the cities of Zen'kov, Mirgorod and Khorol in September-October 1943. His character was forged, combat experience gained and commander's maturity developed in these and other battles.

Pavel Fedorovich's gift of command was vividly displayed in the battles to liberate Pravoberezhnaya Ukraina. On the night of 29-30 September 1943, forward detachments of the 73d Rifle Corps which he commanded forced the Dnepr south of Kanev and seized a bridgehead on its right bank. In November units of the corps again forced this difficult water obstacle in the area of Cherkass, and after intense battles in coordination with other large units, defeated the opposing enemy forces, liberating the city. Corps commander Batitskiy was seen in the most difficult sectors.

During the course of these battles and engagements, the personnel of the corps displayed high military skill and mass heroism. Many soldiers received state awards, and 26 men became Heroes of the Soviet Union.

The corps played an important role in encircling and liquidating the enemy's Korsun-Shevchenkivskiy grouping. Corps large units, continuing the offensive, were among the first 2d Ukrainian Front units to reach the USSR border with Romania. P. F. Batitskiy also skillfully led the units of the 128th Rifle Corps, 1st Belorussian Front, which included our 16th Air Army. He showed himself an able commander during the breakthrough of the powerful defenses in East Prussia, and in the battles for Berlin and the liberation of Prague.

After the war Pavel Fedorovich completed the Military Academy of the General Staff of the USSR Armed Forces imeni K. Ye. Voroshilov with a gold medal, and held a number of responsible command and staff positions. In those years I not only met with Pavel Fedorovich repeatedly, but also worked with him when he was the chief of the General Staff of the Air Forces. He always made effective and knowledgeable decisions on the development and improvement of modern aviation.

His talent as a military leader was fully revealed in the post of Commander-in-Chief, Troops of Air Defense and USSR Deputy Minister of Defense. Owing to the concerns of the Communist Party and the Soviet Government, the Troops of Air Defense possess various types of air defense missile systems, supersonic all-weather fighter-interceptors with powerful armaments, and the latest radar equipment. Automated control systems and high-speed communications equipment are widely used. P. F. Batitskiy was deeply attentive to questions of technical equipping of the troops, and took the necessary steps to develop and improve the operational and strategic forms of their use, train command and engineer cadres and educate highly qualified organizers of modern combat.

P. F. Batitskiy did a great deal to improve the military training of the air defense troops of the Warsaw Treaty Organization countries. Missilemen, fighter pilots and radar operators perfect their skills in combined exercises.

Pavel Fedorovich had a highly responsible attitude toward party and public work. Being a member of the CPSU Central Committee and a deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet, he participated directly in developing and implementing the most important decisions, aimed at the utmost strengthening of the economic and defense might of the socialist Homeland and improving the material well-being of the Soviet people.

Marshal of the Soviet Union P. F. Batitskiy is no longer with us. We his military comrades immeasurably mourn this great loss.

The bright memory of Pavel Fedorovich Batitskiy will always remain in our hearts.

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CSO: 1801/229

ARMED FORCES

BRIEFS

SOVIET ARMY ANNIVERSARY--The Soviet people today ceremoniously marked one of their traditional days, the 66th anniversary of Soviet Army and Naval Fleet. Meetings and seminars with army and patriotic war veterans were organized in our republic dedicated to the glorious anniversary. The ceremonious session of Yerevan City Party Committee and People's Deputies Soviet was held yesterday at Gabriel Suntukyan theatre hall dedicated to the 66th anniversary of Soviet Army and Naval Fleet. The session was attended by party, soviet, trade union and komsomol officials, representatives of public organizations, soldiers of the Soviet Army, and party, war, and work veterans. At the presidium were Comrades Demirchyan, Sarkisyan, Andreyev, Dallakyan, Gambaryan, Nersesyan, (?Shatalin), Voskanyan, Topuzyan, Arutyunyan, Saakyan, and other officials. The session was declared open by Muradyan, cahirman of Yerevan City Soviet Executive Committee. (?Shatalin), Armenian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau member, addressed the session. A concert was given for the participants in the ceremonious meeting. [Text] [GF270608 Yerevan Domestic Service in Armenian 1830 GMT 23 Feb 84]

CSO: 1838/7

GROUND FORCES

COMPETITION IMPROVES PERFORMANCE IN GROUND TROOPS EXERCISE

Moscow KOMMUNIST VOORUZHENNYKH SIL in Russian No 3, Feb 84 (signed to press 18 Jan 84) pp 44-49

[Article by Maj A. Dergachev: "Competition Multiplies Strength"]

[Text] Peals of thunder from guns rolled deafeningly behind the copses and hills, and summer lightning flashed. Breaking through the "enemy" defense from the march, the forward detachment made an assault crossing of a water obstacle and now waged an intense training battle, holding the bridgehead which had been seized. And the main body of the attackers assembled on the near side of the river in gullies and gorges and along forest roads and openings, while the second echelons and reserves were brought up. The main, decisive strike was prepared.

For purposes of camouflage and concealment, it was decided to begin the crossing only with the onset of darkness. This created certain difficulties for the attackers but, in return, it ensured secrecy and surprise of operations when launching the main blow. Finally, it got dark. The mighty KrAZ trucks with pontoons approached the bank, rolling heavily over the bumps.

"Well, Aleksey Markiyonovich, all our hopes are on you," the senior commander admonished the commander of the engineer subunit upon parting.

"We won't let you down," officer Zaginaylo assured him and, receiving permission, he took off for his subordinates.

Work was in full swing on the bottom land of the river. The sections of the future bridge slid from the vehicle beds into the water and were immediately moored. The launch operators took their places in accordance with the estimate. The bulldozer operators cleared away a slope to the river. Everything took its normal course but the subunit commander, A. Zaginaylo, was worried. Responsibility for the outcome of the matter was great. The striving of the personnel to exceed the established standard and demonstrate a high level of training, coordination, and skill in a situation as close as possible to one of combat was great.

Each one in the collective was imbued with this striving. On the eve of the tactical exercise, when the men discussed socialist obligations, the call of

the communists to conduct it as if at the front and to struggle to reduce the times to lay the bridge by 10-15 percent caused an ardent response among them. At a general meeting of the personnel, they outlined specific goals for soldierly rivalry and challenged to competition the collective of the engineer subunit commanded by officer Cheykin. The struggle for the excellent accomplishment of the tasks of the tactical exercise began long before going out to the field. It was conducted for the high quality of lessons and drills and the reliable preparation of equipment and armaments. Competition between the troop collectives flared up especially acutely when the regimental commander's decision became known in the subunits: the primary mission would be accomplished by the one who displays the best training, initiative, and resolution on all stages.

Up to now the subordinates of officer Zaginaylo had firmly held on to first place. The combat engineers conducted moving out on the signal "Assembly" and the multi-kilometer march to the assembly area in an organized and clear manner. Not one of the special situations took them unawares and not one vehicle lagged behind through the fault of the men. The regimental commander often noted their diligence and used the personnel as an example for other subunits. And now he entrusted them to lay the bridge. How would the men show up at the most important stage?

Officer Zaginaylo stayed at his command post briefly. He listened to reports on the course of the work by telephone and set out for the river. Not that he did not trust his subordinates, but he simply wanted to be convinced himself that there were no hitches or unforeseen delays anywhere. On the bank, he met the deputy for political affairs, Captain V. Lavrov, and the secretary of the party organization.

"Things are moving, comrade commander," the officers reported. "Many crews are surpassing the standard time."

"They have to work faster, faster. The tankmen and motorized riflemen are waiting and have already inquired about its readiness. Bring the situation which exists in the bridgehead to the attention of each soldier once more. That is where we are having a bad time of it," the commander reminded them.

By the way, this reminder was unnecessary. The political officer and the secretary of the party organization had been concerned ahead of time about the placement of communists on the exercise. Each of the party members had a specific assignment and, by word and personal example, inspired the men for the successful accomplishment of the assigned mission. The party and Komsomol activists explained to their fellow servicemen the meaning of the struggle for seconds and to surpass the standards: the more rapidly and reliably the pontoon bridge is layed, the greater the chances for victory. Each one clearly realized this.

The combat engineers worked conscientiously. They succeeded in surpassing the established time by almost one third. The strong ribbon of a bridge connected the banks of the river which were invisible at night. The "glowworms" of the markers flashed at once and soon the tracks of tanks and infantry fighting vehicles began to grind across the slabs of the decking and the artillery began to move. The bridge lived, the bridge worked, and this filled with pride each one who took part in laying the crossing.

...Day had broken when the subunit of officer G. Cheykin approached the bridge. Learning the results which their rivals in the competition had achieved, the men congratulated them on their success and threatened to exceed this achievement. In accordance with the concept of the exercise, they were to lay a crossing across another water obstacle. The example of their comrades caused an ardent striving in them to outstrip the rigid standards and to struggle for victory even more resolutely. They also accomplished with honor their assigned mission and the socialist obligations which had been assumed for the period of the exercise. The regimental commander was even at a loss--to which collective to award first place. This time, the subordinates of officer Zaginaylo found themselves the winners. But in the end, the common cause of raising the regiment's combat readiness was the winner.

Truly socialist competition, having become an integral part of the training and indoctrination process, multiplies the strength and energy of people. It is a mighty means for developing the creative activity of the men in the struggle to improve field and special training and strengthen military discipline and prescribed order. Being guided by the requirements of the decree of the CPSU Central Committee, "On improving the organization and practice of summing up the results of socialist competition and encouraging its winners," commanders, political officers, and the party organization of the regiment are striving to give it specificity and efficiency and are developing in the personnel a spirit of competition for the attainment of high final results.

The indoctrinational and mobilizing force of the patriotic movement is skillfully used in the subunit commanded by communist officer N. Stepura. Joining in the socialist competition under the slogan, "Be on the alert and in constant readiness for the defense of socialism's achievements!", the men planned a lofty final goal for themselves--to bring the subunit up among the excellent. The struggle for its attainment is actively waged on each lesson and exercise. In daily indoctrinational work the commander, secretary of the party organization, and other officers and activists mold in the men a clear understanding of the state importance and necessity for conscientious soldierly labor in a situation of an actual military danger emerging from imperialism. The officers study attentively the individual qualities and abilities of the soldiers and sergeants, are constantly concerned about the creation of conditions for fruitful training and their rapid and profound mastery of the equipment and their functional duties, and they are achieving a high level of combat coordination of the subunit as a whole.

The development of lively, creative competition in the collective is furthered by purposeful party-political work. The personnel's acquaintance with the heroic traditions of the Soviet Armed Forces, the engineer troops, and their own regiment and meetings with veterans of the war and leaders in training instill in the men a striving for the heights of soldierly skill and help them to realize better that the road to them lies through persistent labor and comradely mutual assistance.

A role of no little importance is played by the fact that in the collective they approach the working out of the men's socialist obligations especially individually. The officers, communists, and Komsomol activists helped each soldier and sergeant to plan those feasible goals in the competition the attainment

of which will permit winning the title of excellent subunit. Now, in the winter training period, the young soldiers are persistently studying the equipment and successfully mastering functional duties. The men in the second year of service are struggling for the completion of each day of training with excellent results and for the surpassing of the standards.

Here it will be appropriate to stress the following detail: one can say as much as he wants about the importance of socialist competition, acknowledge its mobilizing role in raising combat readiness and the level of military skill, and call upon subordinates for the constant increase in professional training, but if a difficult and instructive situation is not created on lessons and if the men do not face actual rather than imaginary difficulties, the price for the diligence which they display will be small. Various types of lack of coordination, grade inflation, simplifications, and indulgences in combat training dampen people's ardor and blunt a sense of responsibility for the accomplishment of obligations.

Officer N. Stepura completely eliminated such negative phenomena. And first of all, because he is constantly concerned about the organization of an intensive and effective training process, the maintenance of strict prescribed order, and the development of businesslike, interested competition between the men and sections. As a rule, the personnel's study of the equipment and procedures for its combat employment is conducted with the demonstration of the exemplary actions of the best specialists. The subunit commander is not ashamed to turn to his neighbors for assistance if it is necessary to acquaint his subordinates with the advanced procedures and methods in the work of men of other subunits and to instill in them confidence in their strength. He also teaches this to the young officers, Senior Lieutenants O. Sheybak and V. Tkachev. Clearness in instruction using specific examples of leading experience develops in the men the desire to rise to the same level of skill in the mastery of specialties.

The ability to see the main thing in the competition, ensure competition on the lessons, evaluate the results obtained objectively, value the initiative and zeal of people, and to be generous with a compliment and encouragement and, at the same time, attentively investigate the reasons for lagging behind and hold people strictly responsible for negligence and carelessness is inherent in many commanders, political officers, and party activists in this engineer unit. Take at least the secretary of the subunit's party organization, Senior Lieutenant A. Aslanov. Already on the first lessons and drills the officer noticed the great diligence displayed in training by Privates G. Ikshalashvili, Kh. Turdybekov, E. Ermanis, and other men. Communist A. Aslanov advised the Komsomol activists to generalize the experience of the leaders, to note the zeal of the men in the accomplishment of obligations, and to tell about their work procedures in news bulletins. Another time, visiting lessons in the platoon where the agitator is Private M. Danilovich, the party activist recommended to him that he turn his attention to Komsomol members Sergeant N. Ivanyuk and Kh. Kudarov. They not only accomplished the assignment successfully themselves, but they also managed to help their comrades. The agitator's talk about friendship and mutual assistance proved to be interesting and pithy.

The party members are teaching the Komsomol activists the practice of indoctrinational work and are constantly concerned about creating in the collective a

moral atmosphere and a situation of mutual demandingness and goodwill. This is also an important condition for the successful accomplishment of the obligations which have been assumed and furthers a rise in the effectiveness of socialist competition. The majority of the men reinforce their word with deed daily. It happens, of course that some of them become slack and reduce the tension in training. But such instances do not remain unnoticed in the collective.

At one time, let us say, Komsomol members Privates Kh. Umirov, V. Gartman, and V. Shirokoryadov did not work to the full capacity of their strength and deviated from the requirements of the regulations. On the advice of the communists, the activists imposed strict demands on their comrades. The secretary of the Komsomol organization, Sergeant A. Brokar, and other members of the buro pointed out to them the impermissibility of such an attitude toward training and service and reminded them of their responsibility to the collective for the accomplishment of the obligations which had been assumed. The men drew the correct conclusions and made up what had been neglected.

The examples which have been presented testify to the high effectiveness of socialist competition in the regiment and to its direction toward the final result--the attainment of high combat readiness, a rise in vigilance, and the strengthening of discipline and prescribed order. Basically, the men are accomplishing the socialist obligations which have been planned. They are working intensively and fruitfully. However, it would be incorrect to believe that here everything is proceeding smoothly, without a hitch. Once in a while interruptions in the organization of the training process and shortcomings in the organization of competition appear in some subunits. An exacting, principled talk about them took place at the regiment's party election meeting and at party meetings in the subunits where the communists discussed their tasks which follow from the decisions of the December (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee.

The regiment's party committee and party organization see as their task ensuring the vanguard role of the communists in the competition and in accomplishing the requirements of the CPSU Central Committee pertaining to improving the forms and methods of its organization and raising effectiveness. Since the overwhelming majority of the organizers of the competition--the subunit commanders--are party members and candidate members, the demand for the attitude toward the important matter is also imposed on them first of all. The party committee is adopting measures so that officers of the regimental headquarters and services do not remain aloof from competition.

With its most active participation, talks were conducted with the officers on the decree of the party Central Committee about improving the organization and practice of summing up the results of socialist competition and encouraging its winners and on the materials of the December (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee. In this, general party requirements were examined as applicable to the specific nature of military service, the actual state of affairs in the subunits and the practical activity of individual communists were evaluated in accordance with them, and lessons were extracted from the errors and omissions which occurred in the last training year.

Party influence on the course of competition also consists of noticing in it in good time and making everything that is valuable common property, giving a principled evaluation to formalism, irresponsibility, and complacency, and achieving the elimination of such negative phenomena. The experience of the genuinely businesslike, creative approach of officers A. Zaginaylo and N. Stepura to the organization of the men's soldierly rivalry which was generalized and brought to the attention of the officers by party activists was of unquestioned value to them.

What is the essence of this experience? It is the unity of organizational and indoctrinational work with people and the ability of the commanders to attract subordinates with important goals, create conditions for their accomplishment, and organize interesting competition on each lesson and exercise to attain the best results. It is the objective regular summing up of results and the wise employment of moral stimuli to encourage the zeal and initiative of the men. And it is also the fact that they are doing all this constantly and daily, not alone, but jointly with party and Komsomol activists.

And here communist Captain V. Yakovlev decided that it is sufficient to stir up the enthusiasm of subordinates for the struggle for the title of excellent subunit and assume lofty obligations and there, he says, everything will proceed by itself. True, at first the officer undertook the organization of training energetically and directed the party and Komsomol organizations toward ensuring the publicity and comparability of the competition's results and toward comradely mutual assistance. But, as they say, the spark soon went out. The officer-communist relaxed indoctrinational work. As a result--the excellent grades which the men received on the first trips to the field were replaced by good, and then by satisfactory grades. It was necessary to hold the officer answerable to the party organization for the divergence of word and deed.

Or take the communists of the regimental headquarters and services. In accordance with their experience and service status they could make an important contribution to raising the effectiveness of socialist competition and render substantial assistance to young officers in its organization. And the majority of them do this. In particular, subunit commanders are grateful to communist V. Parnikov for the spreading of leading experience in summing up the results of accomplishment of obligations.

The men pay many compliments to communist A. Shustov. He displayed great organizational abilities, initiative, and a high sense of responsibility in being concerned for improvement of the regiment's training-material base. In drawing up the plan for its reconstruction, the staff officer did not limit himself to a simple study of the appropriate instructions and manuals. Of course, the many-years' experience accumulated in the engineer troops is generalized and systematized in them. But he considered this fine point--manuals, instructions, and handbooks do not completely reflect specific local conditions or the degree of training of the personnel of specific subunits or the men of various combat specialties. And here Major A. Shustov saw room for creativity and initiative. The recommendations which he prepared summed up many factors, were economical and practicable and, most important, followed the basic principle: to teach the troops what is necessary in war.

The communist's initiative was supported by the regimental commander, the unit deputy for political affairs, and the members of the party committee. Aleksey Stepanovich received the opportunity to accomplish his ideas in practice. As a result, the combat engineers now have everything necessary to raise combat skill fruitfully and increase their work skills in their specialties.

But they made an exacting examination in the headquarters party organization--do all the communists proceed in this manner? And they came to the conclusion: unfortunately, no. Individual party members avoid lively contact with people and, therefore, do not know the true state of affairs in the subunits and do not pay attention to the fact that at times the indoctrinational measures conducted there are separated from the life of the men and that their ideological and emotional level leaves much to be desired. But you see, at the June (1983) plenum of the CPSU Central Committee it was stressed that ideological work is a matter for the entire party and, this means, for each communist. Participation in the indoctrination of people should be not only a duty for the communist-leader, but also a requirement. The comrades reminded CPSU members V. Zelenskiy and P. Verenich of this and required of them that they change their attitude toward the organization of competition.

The regimental party committee is persistently achieving the strengthening of the primary party organizations' influence on the course of the competition. In listening to the secretaries' reports on this question, it teaches them using leading experience. Such experience has been accumulated in the party organization of the subunit commanded by officer L. Peshka. Working with the communists individually, the buro members achieve their personal example in the accomplishment of obligations and their active participation in the indoctrination of the men. Much has also been done by party activists to equip young officers with knowledge of the procedure and the practical skills in organizing competition. Thus, Senior Lieutenants O. Sheybak, R. Mnatsakanyan, and S. Belyayev, encountering great difficulties earlier in this living, creative matter, now skillfully ensure competition on lessons and direct the soldierly rivalry of their subordinates objectively.

In short, by common efforts the commanders, political officers, and party organizations are seeing that the competition gives rise to initiative and enthusiasm and multiplies the strength and energy of the men in the struggle for the regiment's high combat readiness. And here is what is noteworthy: shortcomings and unused reserves and capabilities do not prevent anyone from achieving certain successes in this matter here. Now, for example, the command and the communists are concerned with strengthening the indoctrinational influence of competition on the strengthening of military discipline. They are solving one more problem: in daily life and in all training measures they strive to create the same competition that reigns on tactical exercises. And therefore the heat of the struggle between subunits and specialists for the best indices in all subjects of combat and political training is increasing in the collective.

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GROUND FORCES

LESSONS LEARNED IN MOUNTAIN TRAINING

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Feb 84 p 1

[Major V. Portnyagin, Red Banner Caucasus Military District: "In Active Opposition"]

[Text] The first company into the mountains was that commanded by Captain K. Nevzorov. Its mission was to straddle the pass and cover the approach to it.

A little later the "enemy" company commanded by Senior Lieutenant V. Sharayevskiy set out.

Captain Nevzorov reasoned like this in deciding his course of action. The pass was located at a high elevation and it was difficult to approach it, as there was deep snow at the foot. This meant that the "enemy" would look for a way around the snow covered area. He should set ambushes on these routes...

This tactic for defending in mountains was no "invention". Captain Nevzorov himself told his subordinates about an episode from the Great Patriotic War when a relatively small group of Soviet soldiers, having set up an ambush in one of the Caucasus passes, destroyed a battalion of crack Jaeger fascists. Senior Lieutenant Sharayevskiy also knew about such actions. And he was prepared for the fact that ambushes awaited the company on the way to the pass. The company commander refused the so-called classical march order formation. He sent out a small group as a patrol and took the main force on a parallel route.

Sergeant L. Isayev was the first ambusher to detect the attackers.

"The patrol passed," he reported to Captain Nevzorov.

"Let them pass, don't open fire," ordered the company commander. "We will wait for the main body."

When yet another group of soldiers appeared behind the recon element, Nevzorov decided that it was time to act. The signal flare was shot up and immediately the sound of machine gun and automatic bursts resounded with a booming echo in the mountains.

But Captain Nevzorov didn't succeed in enticing Senior Lieutenant Sharayevskiy's company into the killing zone. A group of soldiers headed by Sergeant G. Magomedov began to outflank the ambush by moving through the snow covered area. Senior Lieutenant Sharayevskiy sent his main force there. The soldier's high mountain training and outstanding physical conditioning allowed the company to quickly close with the "enemy" and hand-to-hand combat broke out.

The attackers acted decisively and skillfully. All the same they could not overrun the pass with a rush. And the defenders did not succeed in knocking the attacking company out of action once and for all. With darkness falling the training battle flared up anew.

During the review of the tactical training, the battalion commander noted the main characteristics of the actions by the officers and the subunits entrusted to them in the mountains. This included decisiveness, initiative during battle plan development and the skill of creatively using frontal experience. But what lessons did the opposing company commanders gain from this?

Senior Lieutenant Sharayevskiy for example was convinced that the movement route to the pass could have been chosen more painfully. Indeed the enveloping rush through deep snow at the most critical minute of the battle was through the efforts of Sergeant Magomedov's group.

Captain Nevzorov in turn understood that in battle it is not only important to reason everything out like the "enemy" but also to be ready to react quickly to the changing situation. Speaking frankly, the officer had lost his head a little when a group of attackers had struck from behind... A look at the circumstances showed that both the scouts and the attacking group had enveloped under covering fire from their own main body.

It became a rule in the unit where Captain Nevzorov and Senior Lieutenant Sharayevskiy serve that the commander and staff note each original command decision taken in any tactical situation and every effective maneuver by force or fire. Then during command training exercises on the eve of mountain training, officers again and again analyze these tactically instructive actions by officers and the subunits entrusted to them, size up why in some situations one side suffers and the other is successful. And they creatively use the experience to resolve other combat training missions in the future. As for example the experience of Captain R. Khabirov was used.

Then the paratroopers got the order to complete a long night march-assault and by morning to seize an "enemy" command post. After weighing everything carefully, the company commander, Captain Khabirov, led his subordinates to the indicated area not by mountain roads, but cross country. The soldiers had to cross many steep cliffs and Khabirov's calculations on his subordinates' high mountain training was justified. Even the umpire was surprised when the paratroopers attacked the command post well before the appointed time. Using the factor of surprise they successfully carried out the assigned mission.

The actions of Senior Lieutenant M. Voronitskiy are also used as an example for officers. The subunit under his command was defending a stretch of road in the

mountains. The officer decided not to wait for the "enemy" approach, but instead moved his forces forward. The attackers did not expect this and, as they sustained significant "losses" while still on the approaches to the mountains, they were unable to complete their mission.

Now while preparing to go out into the hills, subunit commanders will also give meaning to the experience of Captain Nevzorov's and Senior Lieutenant Sharayevskiy's actions.

The development of tactical thinking in officers is promoted through the unit staff's control of the fulfillment of individual plans for increasing tactical and special training. These plans, taking into account the level of officer knowledge and skills, contemplate the specific limits of their professional growth. In the command training system interviews on the the most complicated tactical training issues are held with the officers.

And there is yet another important condition for developing tactical thought in unit officers. They try to conduct exercises each time here on unfamiliar terrain. If this is not possible (the capabilities of the range and training fields are not limitless), then the leader without fail introduces things to create a situation different from the previous exercise. As a rule, for mountain training an area is selected that has characteristic obstacles such as a river, canyon, or steep cliffs. Part of the exercise must be conducted at night.

Subordinates of Captain Nevzorov and Senior Lieutenant Sharayevskiy returned several days later to the unit billets. After the difficult march and the exhausting climb and descent all of those who had been in the mountain training center will remember the fight with the strong and active "enemy" for a long time.

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GROUND FORCES

MOTOR RIFLE REGIMENT'S STATUS EXAMINED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Feb 84 p 1

[Lieutenant Colonel M. Lishniy, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent, Group of Soviet Forces Germany: "There Must Be a Clear Rhythm"]

[Text] In early January KRASNAYA ZVEZDA recounted how the first month of winter military training for soldiers of the Proskurov motor rifle regiment, the initiators of socialist competition, had ended. Besides the positive moments in their training, deficiencies were also noted. In particular, we stated that in the struggle for high final results a lot will depend on providing a clearer rhythm in the training process and on increasing the organization and harmony in the work done by all links in the leadership chain.

And now, two and a half months of the winter training cycle are completed. Is everything going as the initiators had planned?

The artillery training school which we visited with the motor rifle battalion commander Captain K. Allikas greeted us with the rumble of motors and the clanking of metal. Combat infantry vehicles mounted on rocking frames swaying from front to rear were "feeling their way" through nearby terrain using surveillance equipment. Training was going on nearby on trainers. At both training locations company soldiers were working under the command of Senior Lieutenant Ye. Shavorv. Visual reconnaissance of targets, determining the range to them, meeting norms in weapons operation and other missions stipulated in the training schedule were being completed in well-prepared training areas outfitted with, as they say, the latest word in equipment. The exercise was going on at a good tempo and in the spirit of competition.

The firing table exercise in the tank company commanded by Senior Lieutenant V. Fat'yanov was also clearly organized. It must be noted that not only both the motor riflement and the tanker gunners, but also the mechanic-drivers of both companies were working on their own missions. These consisted of inspecting battery storage cells, learning how to quickly install and remove them from combat vehicles and how to detect and eliminate defects in the electrical system. In short, intense combat training was taking place and it included soldiers of all specialties.

Good shifts were also visible in other subunits of the regiment. The more organized the exercises have become, the clearer the use-schedule for equipment from the material training base is met. As verified in the regiment, an inspection conducted not long ago by staff officers from the Group of Forces promoted this to a large degree. Scrupulously studying the schedule of combat training and competition in subunits, they uncovered many untapped reserves for increasing the quality and effectiveness of the training process. Commander and staff attention was directed also to the fact that training of personnel in subunit ranks was suffering because it was not always related to meeting the schedule of exercises and the daily routine with the required responsibility.

Naturally all of this forced the commander and staff officers to look at their own work more critically. Measures were taken to increase control over the training process and to eliminate coordination problems in planning exercises and training that involved using trainers and other technical equipment. Examples like the following convince one that various planning coordination problems often impact on the qualitative completion of missions. Last month division staff held a muster of specialists from various services and branches. And at exactly the same time the regiment had planned engineer training exercises, defense against weapons of mass destruction and other types of special training which required the definite participation of officers of the appropriate services. The muster was certainly detrimental to the training.

There are also coordination problems because of insufficiently planned details and various types of temporary duty. Let's say that according to the training schedule an officer is to conduct training, but at the same time he is on guard or special duty. In the best case someone quickly pencils in a replacement for him and in the worst case the training falls through. That's enough of that.

The effectiveness and quality of exercises and training, as is known, in many ways depends on the state of training material, equipment and weapons. Unfortunately everything is not being done on this level so that there are no breaks in training and so that missions assigned to subunits are completed in good order and on time. For example, in the same battalion commanded by Captain Allikas the following occurred not long ago. Five infantry combat vehicles went out of action during firing. And only on the gunnery range were the reasons uncovered. One had an unserviceable radio set, in another a weapon hadn't been zeroed, in a third the motor failed... Two hours passed while the defects were being corrected.

It goes without saying that these types of problems don't have the best impact on completing the high commitments accepted by the personnel. And there are many facts that the staff is now thinking about. In individual subunits nearly one quarter of all training time is wasted. One should not be surprised by the fact that the majority of firing done there was rated as satisfactory. This is a disturbing signal and the regimental staff is thinking about how to correct the situation in the time remaining before the end of the winter training cycle.

It is necessary to give the staff officers in the Group of Forces their due. They not only deeply and thoroughly analyzed the training indoctrination process

in the regiment and disclosed deficiencies, but also helped subunit commanders to make training more effective. But all the same, regardless of how effective help from the senior staff may be, the decisive role in improving the quality of combat training and in the struggle for achieving the planned levels must certainly belong to the initiator himself.

Take for example such a basic and important part of the training process as independent personnel training. One must recognize that it is still not optimally organized in the regiment. We visited the training corps with regimental staff officer Captain I. Bashirov during the time allotted by the daily routine to self-study and not a single soldier was there. All eighteen classes, it must be said, were beautifully equipped and empty.

"Self training is conducted by subunits here," explained Captain Bashirov.

We went there. However in the battalion commanded by Captain Allikas, in the recon unit commanded by Senior Lieutenant L. Komarnitskiy and in several other units, far from all of the soldiers were training at the task at hand. Many for some reason were watching television, reading magazines and writing letters during the time allotted to self-study.

One would think that not only subunit commanders but also the regimental staff headed by Major O. Bocharove who, as is known, is responsible for continually controlling adherence to the daily routine and schedule of exercises, are guilty in all of this.

Recently the regimental partkom [party committee] headed by Captain S. Mikoshin began to examine the work of staff officers more closely. At a meeting of regimental headquarters communists there was a businesslike, objective discussion about increasing their responsibility for that portion of work charged to them and for the general state of affairs in the unit. The meeting will undoubtedly promote increased contributions by staff officers in the struggle for reaching planned levels in competition. But there is apparently sense in more strictly looking at the work style of staff officers and of other links in the headquarters, including in the battalion and company. Indeed, the fate of responsibilities is decided primarily in the subunits.

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GROUND FORCES

MOTOR RIFLE DIVISION WHEELED EQUIPMENT DESCRIBED

Moscow ZA RULEM in Russian No 2, Feb 84 p 8

[A. Beskurnikov, engineer: "A Division On Wheels"]

[Text] It is difficult to imagine a modern military organization without the numerous combat, specialized and transport vehicles. And if 40 years ago movement of a troop column was associated in our minds with a dark-gray bristle of bayonets over an even formation of subunits, now you never see a soldier who is not covered by armor.

Wheeled vehicles are the most widely used in our Armed Forces. Let us take a modern motor rifle division. Indeed the very name "motor rifle" signifies a high level of mechanization and mobility in its sub-elements. Not only do all soldiers conduct military operations in vehicles, but all of the artillery, missiles, communications equipment and the headquarters, engineers and other branches are "wheeled". The drivers of automobiles, combat wheeled vehicles and self-propelled wheeled chassis's are one of the most necessary and irreplaceable specialists in a modern army.

Through the concern of the Communist Party the military structure in the USSR always answers the call of time. Let us look back at the beginning. On 1 June 1919 the Red Army had a total of 919 trucks and 40 armored detachments with various types of very shabby vehicles. Now even a simple listing of the names of the various wheeled vehicles in the inventory of a motor rifle division would take up more than one paragraph. Let us look at several of these.

The modern armored personnel carrier BTR-60PB is the basic combat vehicle for motor riflemen and it seats 10 men. Its machine gun will penetrate lightly armored enemy vehicles. The pressurized armor body protects the crew and assault force from bullets and fragments and gives them the ability to pass through contaminated terrain and make assault crossings by swimming water barriers. The independent suspension on all wheels which are equipped with bullet-proof tires gives the armored personnel carrier a high cross-country performance. The BTR-60PB can cross two-meter ditches and canals and moves at high speeds along roads and cross country.

In the conditions of fast maneuvering combat operations and the large depth of troop advances in the course of fulfilling their mission in front of their own

units, scouts must be able to detect the movement of the enemy ahead of time, seize and hold favorable lines of defense until the main force appears, break through to the depths of enemy positions and pass on to their own troops information on their intentions and actions. And now there is a special armored reconnaissance (patrol) vehicle, the BRDM-2. It is smaller and less spacious than the armored personnel carrier but has the same armament and armor, the same ability to cross water barriers and exceeds it in maneuverability.

In a motor rifle division not only riflemen but also artillery-missile men, engineers and pontoon subunits, medical and chemical personnel, communicators and rear echelon soldiers travel on their own wheels. Even Western military books recognize, and certainly without any special delight, the high level of mechanization in our forces. The journal MILITARY REVIEW (U.S.A.) as far back as 1957 wrote about the Soviet Army's level of equipment. "The mobility of ground forces both on land and in the air is receiving a lot of attention. Long transport trains made up of carts pulled by horses are a thing of the distant past. The saturation of rifle divisions with vehicles has increased tremendously."

But for a long time vehicles have been replacing not only the horse. The vehicles which arrived to replace carriages have themselves yielded to more improved equipment. Let's take the combat vehicle for the BM-21 rocket artillery. Its base is the "ural-375" automobile chassis. The engine of the M-13 mount is more than two and a half times as powerful as the ZIS-6, the basic chassis for the "Katusha" used in the opening period of the Great Patriotic War, and the speed has increased by twenty kilometers per hour. Its cross-country ability and fordability has greatly increased.

But this is a vehicle of conventional wheel design and of an already traditional military profession. The revolution in military affairs has provoked the appearance of new vehicles which have mounted on them complex modern military equipment. A clear example is the heavy, eight-wheeled automotive missile carrier. This is not simply a combination of a missile on a vehicle. It is not by accident that it is called a self-propelled missile complex. Filled with very complicated apparatus and computer equipment, it provides reliable missile launching and direct hit capability on targets many kilometers away. The smallest combat missile vehicle is the mount for the PTUR, which is an anti-tank guided rocket mounted on a slightly altered BRDM-2 chassis.

The equipment of a combat engineer subunit is the most modern. For building fords across rivers they have heavy mechanized complex carriageway bridges carried by powerful KrAZ's [vehicles produced by the Kremenchug Automotive Factory]. When the water barrier is very wide, the pontoon bridge section carried on a KrAZ-255V chassis goes into action. In 30 minutes combat engineers will set up a ford 200 meters in length with a load capacity of 60 tons.

And how many more vehicles there are in engineer units! The mine layer mounted on a conventional truck quickly lays mines. The MAV amphibious vehicle helps engineer officers recon fords. It is built on subassemblies and units of the GAS-69 jeep. This same chassis is used for mine detectors, and motor graders and other road equipment will blaze a new trail in equipment.

The multi-use amphibious transport vehicle came to the aid of front line medics. This miniature vehicle which is open on top and has lowered frontal glass is hardly a meter high. It can carry severely wounded off the battlefield and deliver ammunition and food where normal transport vehicles cannot go because of enemy fire.

The modern tanks found in motor rifle divisions are reliable and not very vulnerable. But all wars have losses and tanks are also damaged. And then they cannot get by without the repair subunits whose total technological base is mounted on wheeled vehicles. One of the most valuable qualities of this "field factory" is its high mobility. When the repair is complete and the combat subunits have gone on ahead, the repair personnel, after stowing the removed equipment, rush along their trail to the new deployment site.

One could go on and on listing the names of vehicles with special designations. Mobile radio stations on the GAS-66 with removable, telescoping antennae, vehicles for special processes which remove traces of radioactive contamination, and a bakery (!) on a vehicular chassis would be included. Even a traditional military kitchen with a chimney on a two-wheeled trailer is another. It is called the PAK-66 and is comfortably mounted on the open body of a GAZ-66.

Conventional flat-bed transport vehicles have a place in the inventory. In place of the "zakhar's" and "studer's" of the Great Patriotic War period there are modern vehicles with increased mobility, such as the GAZ-66, ZIL-131 and the "Ural-375D". These are both vehicles with universal and specialized bodies and also special vehicles for servicing missile complexes and mobile mounts for detecting targets, controlling, etc. For example wheeled fuel supply vehicles themselves find columns of tanks and armored personnel carriers and park stands for special vehicles.

When the parade of military equipment begins in Red-Square in the capital of our Motherland, after the parading columns in dismounted formations, combat vehicles painted in camouflage coloration move without fail together with the tanks guns and missiles. And among the very diverse military emblems in a motor rifle division's combat formation, the artillery, tank, communications and engineers emblems, which symbolize army specialities, clearly flashes the golden symbol of the military motorman.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

IMPORTANCE OF CREW GROUND TRAINING STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Lt Col V. Stetskiy, military pilot-sniper, aviation regiment deputy commander, Red Banner Far Eastern Military District: "Rhythm of the Flight Shift"]

[Text] Lt Col A. Mikhaylov, the flight leader, reminded the pilots and aviation specialists of the day's mission and added:

"We will begin the flights strictly according to plan."

The flight shift promised to be difficult: operational flights with various types of maneuver, support of ground forces and aerial reconnaissance. To a bystander it may have appeared that the flight leader was too brief. He did not go into details or additional measures which prevent breaks in fulfilling the schedule. The officer simply was sure that there would be no breaks.

And so it was. From the takeoff of the first rocket-carrying aircraft, gleaming golden in the morning sun, to the landing of the last combat aircraft on the threshold of twilight, the airfield was alive with an intense but precise rhythm. There was not a hitch in the actions of the pilots and the flight control group. Specialists from the aviation maintenance service, short-range navigation and landing system, and airfield support worked no less precisely. Additional instructions to responsible persons were not required even in the most difficult situations.

This is but one example of how well organized the winter military training is being carried out in our Four-Times Decorated Orshanskiy Fighter-Bomber Air Regiment. And this was achieved not due to some cardinal or emergency measures, "tightening the screws," etc. No. We simply strive for maximum effective use of the positive experience acquired in the unit.

Let us take the question of the rhythm of military training in general and flight training in particular. The foundations for this rhythm were laid by painstaking labor already during the past training year. And we gave this question constant attention, because improvement in the combat readiness, class qualification categories, and training of aviators largely depends on a precise rhythm of military training. Any even insignificant break in this rhythm can entail far-reaching consequences.

In connection with this, I recall an incident which occurred in the flight commanded by Captain A. Ishchenko. Three dual flights were planned to take place before the onset of night. But it happened that, due to the inefficiency of one of the leaders in distributing ground support equipment for the flight, not all the specialized vehicles were present. Naturally, more time than allotted by the training schedule was spent in preparing the fighter-bombers for a repeat take-off. Thus, a sort-of "accordion" effect occurred. Each following flight had to be delayed awaiting a fortuitous "window," or even the end of the shift. The oncoming twilight made it impossible for the pair consisting of senior lieutenants S. Ptushkin and S. Golushko to fly.

Then a long stretch of bad weather ensued. The improvement in the skill of the young pilots envisioned in the monthly plan, and therefore the expected level of training for the flight as a whole, was not achieved on schedule. It was namely after this incident that the regimental leadership began to link the current and long-range military training for pilots more closely with planning for the work of the maintenance and airfield support services. How had it been before? The monthly and weekly plans existed seemingly independently, since the planning table was compiled without taking them into account as necessary. At times the regiment planned only its flying, and did not get involved in the specifics of the work of the support service specialists.

Now such shortcomings have been eliminated. The planning of flight training and the work of the aviation maintenance service and support systems are implemented taking into account the entire complex system of interrelationships. When we take on our commitments for the flight shift, we take into account that each pilot's take-off should not repeat a previous one, but be a step forward, a new level in the growth of his qualifications and skill. Based on the level of personnel training, we work out monthly and weekly plans taking into account that they consider not only the number of flight shifts, but also specific tasks: bombing, firing and instructor training flights.

Operational flights are noted, for example. The support subunit commanders firm up their plans ahead of time, subordinating them to the flying work. The plans include the order of use of specialized equipment and the times required for repair and maintenance, so that the required number of machines will be operational during the flights. Owing to this, during recent months there were no instances in which disruptions in the rhythm of flight shifts or breaks in fulfilling the planning schedule occurred through their fault.

In my view it is especially appropriate to discuss the role of the chiefs of services. There is no reason to hide that previously some of them were not involved in flight planning. Now each contributes to compiling the schedule.

In preparing for the recent tactical flight training, Major M. Fetisov, chief of air, firing and tactical training, Major P. Filippov, and others, for example, proceeding from the plans for the winter training period, put numerous suggestions into the schedule which made training more tactically substantive. The most instructive routes, maneuvers, ways of conducting aerial reconnaissance and inflicting bombing and missile strikes, and many other things were selected. A well thought out organization of flights and socialist competition

disciplines the aviators. Longstanding shortcomings of navigation equipment maintenance specialists have been overcome. Now they carry out their tests and adjustments on non-flying days, with the aid of monitoring instrumentation.

But to think that the rhythm of flight shifts depends only on the service and maintenance subunits would be erroneous. Many reserve capacities are also found in the improvement in training of the aerial warriors themselves. Although rare, there were instances in the past when individual pilots were excluded from work in the air because they were not prepared to fly.

Now we do everything to eliminate shortcomings in the ground training of the aviators which cause flight organization to become less rhythmic. Thorough advanced preparation for each flight and intensive exercises in simulators help the aviators successfully overcome all the pre-flight control barriers.

I will touch upon another aspect of the issue. Every pilot knows that some time is spent in rearming and receiving the aircraft from the technician. But does he always consider this in detail? Frequently one can observe as a pilot, grabbing his flight helmet on the run, hurries to his fighter-bomber in order to examine it hastily and take his place more quickly in the cockpit.

Why such a hurry? The saying, "hurry and people will laugh," is not for nothing. Haste can lead to serious errors. Careful adjusting of the flying equipment and scrupulous testing of the readiness of the aircraft for takeoff are important flight safety factors.

But there are pilots who explain their behavior by saying that they do not have the right to delay the takeoff of the aircraft. They do not, in fact, have the right to delay the takeoff. This can cause delays in subsequent flights as well, and disrupt the rhythm of the entire flight shift. However, each pilot knows the time of his flight. If he has forgotten, he should look again at the schedule and appear at his aircraft on time.

In order to prevent instances of unjustifiable haste, we have required flight and squadron commanders to control more closely the timeliness of the preparation of their subordinates for takeoff. Subunit party organizations also have given what help they can to this effort. We have a rule: not even an insignificant departure from flight regulations remains unnoticed. For example, the regiment remembers an incident during night flying in which Sr Lt M. Kabanov started up and suddenly turned off his aircraft's engine. At first he did not explain the reason for this. Soon it became clear that the pilot, in his haste, had forgotten to check to see whether the cover had been removed from the air intake and then wanted to hide his mistake. His fellow communists strictly counseled their comrade.

The regiment's aviators strive to accomplish each flight strictly according to schedule, and to complete fully each flight shift. This helps raise the aerial training of pilots steadily to a new, higher level during this training year.

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AIR/AIR DEFENSE FORCES

VARIOUS TRAINING PROBLEMS EXAMINED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 84 p 2

[Article by Col V. Voronov, military pilot-sniper, Red Banner Central Asian Military District: "Without Indulgences and Simplifications"]

[Text] Both S. Oleynik, the squadron commander, and the pilots understood that it would not be easy to accomplish the training task set before the subunit. Schematically the mission was similar to many others which the aviators had accomplished in training flights. But now the tactical situation was more complex. It was required that they overcome a sector of intense concentration of "enemy" air defense missiles. According to the mission the flight path was narrow and maneuver enroute was limited.

Major Oleynik worked out several operational variants, but the regiment commander rejected all of them, one after another:

"The 'enemy' will quickly figure out that concept."

It was decided to allow each flight commander independently to work out his maneuver within the air defense zone, so that the flight would then accomplish it in flight. This would force the 'enemy' to solve several tactical missions simultaneously, which would not be easy with an acute shortage of time. Creative work was in full swing in the flights. Bold proposals by the pilots were supplemented by an accurate mathematical calculation. Everything was considered: terrain relief, aircraft maneuverability, training and teamwork of the pilot pairs, and individual qualities of each pilot. The result was several conceptually audacious, thoroughly grounded maneuver variants, which differed from each other. They relied on maximum exploitation of the high maneuvering capabilities of the missile-carrying aircraft, timely use of individual means of radioelectronic combat, and skillful piloting techniques.

The high level of tactical maturity which the aviators demonstrated had not come to them automatically or immediately. Telling factors were the purposeful methodological search and concerted efforts of commanders, instructors, political officers and the party organization in training and educating the aviators, especially those who previously had lacked confidence in operations conducted in a complicated environment. For example, Captain A. Kelle, a flight commander, once was not very precise on a flight in maneuvering to strike the target.

"The reason for the pilot's error," stated Lt Col I. Belozor, then deputy regimental commander for flight training, at a meeting of the unit

methodological council, was not that he did not know the tactical techniques, but that he could not competently apply them. Frontal experience teaches that tactical skill is based on a high degree of flying proficiency.

He cited the authority of Col Gen Avn I. Kozhedub, Thrice Hero of the Soviet Union, who asserted that at the foundation of victorious aerial battle lies "correct maneuver and swift attack, in order to stun the enemy and not give him a second to think..."

Grasping the meaning of the recommendations of this glorious master of victorious attacks, one understands that to put them in practice a pilot must be able to pilot the aircraft like a virtuoso and use all the maneuver capabilities of the aircraft. It is customary to consider that piloting techniques are improved primarily in the maneuver flying area. In my own view skills necessary for precise aircraft control are also strengthened during circular route flights over the airfield and during landing approaches. Improving aerial training must proceed from the simple to the complex.

It is namely in this sequence that the subordinates of Major Oleynik are trained to destroy targets in mountains and deserts, make tactical launches of guided missiles and intercept "enemy" aircraft. The unit methodological council, which is called upon to play the role of generator of the pilots' creative initiative, keeps its finger on the pulse of pilot training. It handles this task successfully, and actively and purposefully seeks new and advanced techniques for training pilots. On such techniques largely depend the effectiveness and quality of the training process and the level of tactical maturity of the aerial warriors. Here is an example.

A number of tactical techniques are defined only in general outline in the manuals. The methodological council has worked them out in detail, taking into account the capabilities of the aircraft, terrain features and individual training of the pilots, and persistently puts recommendations into practice.

For example, the short tactical exercises for young pilots recommended by the methodological council have justified themselves. They are conducted during preparations for a flying mission accomplished against a complicated tactical background, and help develop the officer's initiative and his thorough study of combat techniques and the maneuver capabilities of his aircraft and that of the 'enemy.' But we know that knowledge is acquired gradually. Consequently, it is important that the aviator begin his training in solving tactical tasks as early as possible. Having generalized the leading experience of Major B. Babayan, a flight commander, who began to conduct short tactical exercises with his subordinates even before they began flights on the range, the unit methodological council introduced this form of exercise in other flights.

Sometimes I hear that strict adherence to safety measures retards the growth of the pilots' combat activeness and tactical training. Some officers believe that it is necessary either to close one's eyes to individual deviations from the requirements of the manuals, or work out given elements in a simplified environment. However, with a creative approach it is possible to combine successfully an uncompromising stance with an effective training process. The

experience of the squadron led by Lt Col Yu. Shatskiy bears witness to this. Here there were more young pilots than in other subunits, and the issue of observing flight safety measures while improving the officers' tactical abilities was very acute. And what happened? The squadron commander, with the aid of his deputy, was able to organize the training process in such a way that maximum output from each flight was achieved, while flying regulations were observed fully.

For example, the young pilots were to practice a fighter evasion maneuver at maximally low altitude while approaching the target. The airfield and range radars could not adequately pick up the blips of the aircraft in the maneuver area in this flight echelon, and safety measures provided for constant radar monitoring of the crew's location. The situation prompted a seemingly simple solution -- to raise the flight altitude. Does this not simplify the task? They acted differently. At the suggestion of the squadron commander an additional radar was set up in the maneuver area.

However, the young pilots practiced maneuvering in the target area with no special effort, since during the course of further operations the difficulty of overcoming air defense zones lost its tactical significance. "It is not interesting," said one of them, "since there is not even a theoretical enemy."

"It is necessary to imitate the combat work of antiaircraft gunners during flights on the range," the chief of the regiment's aerial firing and tactics training proposed at the methodological council.

The regimental command organized precise coordination with an air defense missile subunit. In order for the young pilots to gain a better idea how the "enemy" uses their errors in maneuvering, they were given the opportunity to visit the air defense soldiers and observe their actions during flights. The lesson was graphic and instructive. At the flight critique the command began to analyze photographs from the air defense missile subunit which revealed shortcomings in accomplishing maneuvers, and started purposefully to improve the methods of training the regiment's aviators.

However, it would be incorrect to think that all aviators achieved tactical mastery, and had nothing further toward which to strive. For example, some pilots did not succeed in finding the target while in flight. Major Yu. Kornev, for example, required a second pass to detect a camouflaged 'enemy' missile system. There were also some indulgences and simplifications in organizing training flights at the tactics range. At times the target mock-up is set up on open ground and its coordinates long remain unchanged. The pilots' actions on the range are not always analyzed by the instructors as thoroughly and comprehensively as, let us say, bombing flights. Sometimes inflated marks are permitted. Unit aviators must conduct a decisive struggle against shortcomings, and do so in a principled manner, with severity appropriate to the party, and relying on positive experience.

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SPECIAL TROOPS

COMMANDER MILITARY CONSTRUCTION DETACHMENT PROFILED

Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Captain Yu. Mamchur: "Working Diligently"]

[Text] A house does not begin with its foundation, or even its excavation. A house begins with the people who build it.

Al'bin Al'binovich Navrotskiy understood this already during his mandatory term of service, being a military construction worker and later a company first sergeant. Over 20 years the buildings being constructed have changed considerably, but his conviction that a structure is forged in the barracks has only been strengthened. Newcomers to the military construction detachment as a rule lack special training. They must quickly be made into true carpenters, welders and scaffolding erectors. And whereas there are training battles and mock attacks to develop military knowledge, there are no training houses for military builders. They are always the real thing -- people live and work in them.

Therefore, a clear organization of production and focus on the end result are, for military construction specialists, a kind of indicator of combat readiness, which is checked daily. Lt Col A. Navrotskiy frequently remembers the words of the June 1983 CPSU Central Committee plenum, that only a blending of ideological-educational work with organizational and economic activities gives the required effect. It is not enough to give military construction workers a specialty. They must love their profession and find interest in their work.

Lt Col A. Navrotskiy believes that through the total selflessness of each worker and high quality work they will succeed in accomplishing this mission, and will also send back conscientious, qualified specialists to the civilian economy after military service. The detachment commander and his subordinates are succeeding in accomplishing this mission. For several years already a school of communist labor has been functioning successfully, and a harmonious, minutely thought out system for summing up competition, apprenticeship and propagating leading experience is in existence.

Lt Col A. Navrotskiy directs all the efforts of commanders, political officers, and the party and komsomol aktiv to where the success of the overall work is decided -- the construction sites and the subunits. And if the going is difficult in one of the sites, no one stands aside. The more experienced comrades always help and give advice, without regard for the time involved. Now it is

hard to believe that a couple of years ago captains S. Vishnevskiy and S. Marulin hadn't even thought about service in a military construction detachment, and had only a vague idea about performance standards and planning and budgeting documentation. Now both command leading companies.

Figures indicate that year after year the military construction detachment commanded by Lt Col A. Navrotskyi fulfills its plan in performance standards and all other production indices. For ten years the collective has held the high rank of a collective of communist labor.

Communist A. Navrotskyi has been elected to the party committee of the political section of the district construction administration.

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SPECIAL TROOPS

TRAINING CONDITIONS INTENSIFIED FOR COMMUNICATIONS TROOPS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Feb 84 p 1

[Article by Lt Col V. Timoshchenko, Order of Lenin Transbaykal Military District: "When There Is Interference in the Atmosphere"]

[Text] "Yes, we are still teaching specialists poorly. The conditions are those of a hothouse plant. How can one learn to work for real in such conditions?"

"The main thing is to develop skills to the level of automatic reactions."

"In modern battle any automatic stereotype will be defeated if there is not psychological stability. And this must be taught."

(From a conversation of officers after a tactical exercise.)

Everything started right after this exercise. The radio reception center's failure there prompted the subunit's officers to search for more effective ways to train radio telegraph operators. They thought and argued a great deal. They agreed that it is necessary to consider more fully the psychological influences of the conditions of modern combat in their training.

Major N. Malykhin, chief of the center, proposed at a meeting of officers that they think about how to make training more complex and stress the training of specialists under extreme conditions.

"It is necessary," he said, "to polish skills in parallel with psychological stability."

Soon the subunit's innovators introduced a number of improvements at the site, which made it possible to make training conditions more complex. Now at the start of each exercise a tap recorder plays the sounds of real battle. They rise and fall, and create a background which makes the actions of the radio telegraph operators more difficult. But that is not all.

"The atmosphere is filled with interference," says Major Malykhin.

The melodious tune of the Morse Code was pierced by the beat of extraneous sounds. Penetrating whistles cut through the sound, and intense hissing

interfered with radio reception. But Lt P. Kiryutkin, the crew commander, did not hurry to give the order to shift to a spare frequency.

"We are specifically giving the soldiers an additional burden," Captain Ye. Sadov, a specialist 1st class, explained the lieutenant's decision. In modern combat the entire frequency spectrum may be covered with interference under conditions of intense electronic countermeasures. Where is the guarantee that spare frequencies will not also be jammed?

This is a reasonable question, and is precisely what happened at the last tactical exercise, when Major Malykhin's subordinates failed to reestablish a reliable exchange of radio messages. Now he is emphasizing mostly the ability to work under conditions of interference. For this purpose a transmitter has been installed on the exercise leader's control panel, with the aid of which it is possible to produce texts of radio messages at constantly increasing speeds, and in parallel with this a radio interference transmitter is switched on. This improvement makes it possible maximally to complicate the atmospheric environment and more effectively teach radio telegraph operators to work reliably under conditions of electronic countermeasures.

The results of the creative search by the officers in the radio reception center are obvious. Precise and error-free reception of correspondence under conditions of a significant combination of interference and useful signals has been achieved.

The methodology for carrying out exercises in the subunit has also improved. The active use of tape recorders has begun for polishing the skills of radio telegraph operators in receiving signals when the atmosphere is filled with interference. On the eve of exercises difficult texts are recorded at various speeds and then interference is superimposed on these recordings.

When these recordings are used the sound rises and falls intermittently, still further complicating the working conditions. These training techniques are having positive results. In Lt Kiryutkin's crew, for example, most of the specialists are fulfilling the 1st class specialists' norms.

The atmosphere seemed to seethe with various sounds. The Morse Code could barely be heard. The concentration on the faces of the operators told that the intensity of their work had reached its maximum.

"The 'enemy' has used weapons of mass destruction!" stated the exercise input.

In a few seconds, having donned protective clothing, the soldiers continued to work to ensure a stable radio communications exchange. This is how scheduled training began in the subunit. Captain Sadov was in charge. Observing the actions of his subordinates he made some marks in his notebook. His observations will prove useful in summing up, and will permit using all the better aspects to improve the training process further.

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AFGHANISTAN

WORK OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS HAMPERED BY 'BANDIT' ATTACKS

Moscow KOMSOMOL 'SKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Dec 83 p 3

[Article by T. Kuznetsov, special correspondent in Kunar Province: "Work, Pechdara"]

[Text] The main rotor reluctantly was making its final revolution and the "helicopter" commander had already pushed open the door, removed the ladder and smiled: "Welcome to Asadabad."

About 10 minutes ago in the air he had invited me into the cockpit and, having given me a map, explained the situation: "On the right, behind the mountain ridge is Pakistan. From up here it seems right next door, but it is somewhere around 7-8 km. In the col (now we will fly up closer) you could say is the front line. Do you see the duval [embankment]? There the dushmans [enemies] are dug in. In the tents on the other side is the post of the Tsarandoy."

A green signal rocket flew up from the post.

"They are signaling that they are ready to provide cover just in case."

Two spiral loops downward and we were in a narrow valley where the waters of the Pechdara and Kunar flow together. Greeters and escorts were clustered near the strip. Having looked them over, Ziya Azia, editor-in-chief of the newspaper DARAFSHE DZHAVANAN shrugged his shoulders and looked at his watch: "They're here on time. Farukh is a punctual person.... Perhaps he's a Saturday worker?"

"Incidentally, today is Friday."

"Well, then Sunday worker," Ziya clarified, "you see we have Fridays off. Let's go. It's not far."

Farukh Asar, secretary of the provincial committee DOMA, was there, where one would assume the chief of the youth headquarters of the construction to be--at the headquarters. Farukh Asar, secretary of the provincial committee DOMA, was just where the chief of the youth construction headquarters assumed, at the headquarters. On the outside and inside the temporary plank structure, decorated with red calico, resembled a work supervisor's trailer. In the corner were picks, shovels, and a box of gauntlets. On the walls--charts and obligations. About 15 boys in white shirts and Young Pioneer red neckties were crowded together on benches dug into the ground. Farukh, apparently, had made them

understand what had to be done and in closing was cautioning them: "Since you came here in uniform, be neat or your mothers will never get you clean...."

Farukh started showing the building site from the side. He let us down to the drained riverbed and along the way told us:

"I've seen photos of your GESes. They are fantastic structures. Compared to them, our electric power station on the Pechdara is like a mock-up. But for us it is just as important as the Sayano-Shushenskiy is for Siberia. Bringing light to Asadabad is not only a question of culture but also of policy. A simple example: Each family here spends 50-80 Afghani per day on firewood and kerosene. Figure it up, that's half the average monthly wage. And if the people will get cheap electricity, they will get it from the people's authority! Further, the pumps will bring water to the mountain terraces. To irrigate 600 hectares is a great feat. They each yield two harvests a year. That means every home will have more nourishing food on the table. Thanks to whom? To the people's authority. What's more, the energy is needed for the furniture factory. Production will expand and the working class will begin to grow. That is why the dushmans constantly threaten to blow up our GES. But they never will. Really, will we allow them to harm such a beauty?"

It actually is beautiful, the "Obgardan" GES. Even in the scaffolding and planks its outlines are well-proportioned and daring against a background of the clay duvals and brown monotony of the mountains overshadowing half the sky. It is clung to by the people who put their heart and soul into it.

Litters and wheelbarrows, shovels and hands--there are no other tools. A crane truck balances on the very edge of the precipice. Its arm is short and does not reach far, but it still helps. The only concrete mixer (for a quarter cube) turns incessantly. Near it stands a beardless youth with a submachine gun. His job is to guard the machinery--the enemy could send a saboteur. Without this simple device, work would slow down to a crawl. And the guard, although he knows everyone inside out, is serious and self-disciplined. Be it a lad from a neighboring farmstead, an old man across the way, an innkeeper, a mullah, or the governor himself, he looks them all over equally closely--anyone who comes for mortar or brings up shingle and cement.

The construction site is in motion. It hums, rings, shouts and laughs. It draws up its creators in a resilient rotation and makes a special mix of them--a human one, well-matched with the concrete. Together, laboring shoulder to shoulder are a Pushtun and a Tajik, a light-haired descendant of Alexander Makedonskiy and a dark-complexioned dravid, a hazara still retaining the features of his Mongolian ancestors, and a Soviet specialist.

The fellow from Vologda, Yura Kopeykin, you could say is a specialist twice over. You see, he has experience of Komsomol work behind him and the GES on the Pechdara is not the first vital project in his biography. His new experience is in something else. Here he was, it appeared to me, reproachfully suggesting something to an elderly Afghan. The explanation ended in a handshake. Was there a misunderstanding?

"Somewhat. You see, the old gentleman kept calling me sahib. It must be from force of habit. What kind of a master am I to him? You must understand, I said. Does a sahib handle a crowbar? Put up timbering? Move rocks? No. Who's left? A comrade.

A fleeting episode, but behind it personalities and destinies. Take that same "old gentleman." It was not out of senile stubbornness, or servility, or for the sake of taunting the Soviet that he dignified him with the title master. He simply was not yet used to his new life. It was readily apparent that he was recently from there. He was tricked and carried off to a foreign land--ignorant, confused and broken-spirited. He led a dog's life for five long years, believed anything and longed and dreamed if only to die in his homeland. He returned. But there was no time for dying. We must build.

Or take Yura Kopeykin. In appearance he is simply "plowing", calmly and reliably. Ask him how the bullets whistle--he'll brush you aside. You see, he knows very well how they whistle....

Thin, sun darkened Mavlanur Akhamdi also manages to be everywhere, but is visible to everyone. He is the tallest graduate of Kabul Polytech and the supervisor of the project. The bulky notebook is like a matchbox in his huge palms. Its pages contain sketches of assemblies, calculations, variations of engineering solutions, and plans for each day. In a word, months of a hectic life. When Mavlanur talks about the GES, there is bitterness and pride in his words.

"The electric power station could have been serving Afghanistan a long time ago. After all, construction began 10 years ago. But after the April revolution the Western specialists gave up on it half way through and fled and took the documentation with them, right down to the last drawing. Still, for a whole year the workers and technicians continued to work and finished the dam and canal.... Then the dushmans attacked. You see, from here to their largest base near Badzhaur," Akhamdi nods toward Pakistan, "it's not more than 30 km. The bandits literally hunted down everyone who showed up at the GES. Snipers fired from the near slope and mortars from the far slope."

Mavlanur is distracted for a moment, clarifies something with engineer Kayum and continues: "In the spring the situation permitted resuming work on the electric power station. Experienced Soviet comrades arrived and helped with advice. In Kabul the necessary materials and equipment were gathered together. All of this was delivered here by a special convoy...."

...The convoy crawled along the rocky riverbed. The drivers would have liked to step on the gas a little, but this was no motor highway. Craters and remnants of rockslides made the road like a slalom course. The only difference was that you did not pick up speed. And there was dust.

We went downhill. The engines, as if taking a breath after the strained roar on the upgrade slopes, quieted down. Therefore, everyone at once heard the explosion.

The convoy commander had been in such fixes before and estimated the situation in an instant. It was not a suitable place for an ambush and it was too early. The kishlak was nearby. Then it was either a "trick" or the dushmans intended to delay the convoy in order to attack in the darkness.

"Keep your eyes open!" He commanded out of habit, knowing full well that the people were alert and almost all of them were lying down on the sides of the road, ready for battle.

"There they are!" A fellow in a new olive-colored uniform heatedly shot somewhere upward almost half a charge.

About 100 meters above the road two were running toward the crest. Without stopping they snapped off some short bursts. From below it seemed that the bandits were about to slip away.

"Conserve your cartridges," the commander said. "Yusuf, stop them."

Yusuf, a recent nomad, was sitting in the truck bed on the sacks. He raised his rifle that had been around for a long time. ("Izhevsk Plant, 1898") and without changing his posture moved the bolt twice.... Then he lowered the barrel to his knees.

"Check what's there.... But be careful." The commander muttered and himself headed for the site of the explosion.

"Don't fear, boys. Go boldly," Yusuf jumped from the truck and fired off a third cartridge, "I'll keep an eye out."

Squinting his eyes, he now saw the entire slope and could have in a stroke knocked a lizard off a rock, but he never wasted cartridges on nonsense. He had gotten in the habit of selecting a target deserving a bullet.... Six months ago, in Yusuf's absence, the dushmans massacred his family and stole his sheep and camels. Custom demanded revenge. But where to look for the murderers and robbers? How could he deal with them alone? The tribal elders reasoned: "Be with those who take revenge on the offenders for the offended." Yusuf understood the advice correctly and became a defender of the revolution, having stipulated only two conditions: leave him the rifle he inherited and the road he had grown accustomed to since childhood....

Ropes were uncoiled at the head of the convoy; an APC had been overturned by the explosion. It was on its side, having come to rest against a mound. A wheel, shattered to bits, was scattered for some distance. They were already dragging the driver-mechanic from the hatch. He was unconscious. Those inside were in various conditions: One escaped with bruises and three received fractures. Not waiting for the medics, they were hustling about with bandages. In place of casts and splints, they made use of an adjustable spanner, a magazine from a submachine gun and a basalt chip that was flat like a board. The Afghani language does not have any four-letter words, so the injured relieved their souls with flowery eastern curses.

"It could be worse. Be strong brothers while we level off the crater. Otherwise the vehicles won't pass, and don't put the APC in the hole. Here, this rubble is good for that." The commander was the first to jump from the road to the parched riverbed. Pood-sized pellets flew onto the messed up roadway.

The stones thudded dryly. Blood pounded into your head: It let you know you were 1 1/2 km above sea level. The convoy commander did not catch the footsteps and shouts right away.

"We caught him. He was hiding behind a rock! You louse, see the mess you made?"

He brought the urchin with pieces of wire in his hands. There was plenty of evidence. The commander straightened up and, in order to wipe the sweat from his forehead, raised his hand. The boy winced. The hand slowly fell to his burry head.

"Why did you do this, sonny?"

With inborn pride the boy was ready to withstand any pain without a sob--but they did not hit him. But he saw the explosion. He saw how it hurled the armored vehicle, how the huge wheel flew off and ~~smacked~~ the ground and how the young and handsome soldiers, maimed, writhed in the brown rubble.... And he was the one who put the mine there. And he closed the contacts. But how could he explain that it was against his will, that in the night two bandits broke into his home and threatened to kill his father and mother if he, Rakhmatullo, refused to do it? He would have been left with 11 mouths to feed. The youngest was in the cradle. And in the blankets near the cradle two more mines were hidden--for another time. Then those two will come again....What can be done?

He grasped the commander's dusty, sweaty overalls and tugged at them: "Give me the submachine gun, sarboz! Give me the submachine gun. Give me!..."

The convoy arrived in Asadabad, not having lost a single kilogram of cargo. The good news passed from house to house--they brought 4,000 bags of cement, 35 tons of solar oil, transformers, a concrete mixer, steel framework.... Even the ones who had never heard of these words before discussed the news thoroughly and with interest, as they would have if the topic was rice, sugar and bread. They rejoiced as they do over the birth of a first-born.

Already the next morning there were constant volunteers to help the builders. First come the party members and the DOMA activists. Then came the soldiers, the men of the people's militia and office workers. There were even dehkans from nearby kishlaks. In the Umarkhon Lyceum a cell of the youth organization decreed: The vacation must go to waste. The secretary of the cell Mirgausitdin brought two teams of schoolboys to the building site. Over the summer they made 180,000 Afghani.

On Thursdays townspeople volunteer Saturday workers showed up and on Fridays--volunteer Sunday workers. No one forced anyone. They initiated it themselves. Each one did what he could. Cabinetmakers from the furniture factory hammered

together forms. Blacksmiths tied the reinforcement steel framework together. There were also enough hands for masonry, measuring out gravel and laying lines. A small, like a young jackdaw, Young Pioneer Rustam even made up a song. I heard this song.

It was lunch time--the hottest part of the day. The cooks were portioning out the pilaff into the bowls. The kettles of sweet-scented boiling water were passed from hand to hand. Everyone went down to the river to snack under the precipice in the shade. And only little Rustam remained in the blazing sun. He climbed up a pile of rocks and, clapping his hands, began singing.

I must be honest: I listened to the translation. But even without the translation you knew what the song was about, for every verse ended with the words: "Work, Pechdars!"

I was distracted and this is why: Just then a green signal rocket again flew up from the forward post we flew past in the morning. Then, just in case, they are ready to provide cover.

Sing, little man.

When this issue was being made up, the first section of the "Obgardan" GES on the Pechdara River underwent pre-operational tests, became operational and was put under load. The designed output was achieved--650 kilowatts.

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